

PUPPY'S FIRST NIGHT

Written by Sally Bradbury, January 2017.

Here is how I do it with my pups at 8 weeks old:

Day 1. Before bedtime pup has had supper, been out to the toilet a few times, a play session, cuddle, another play session and toilet again and rinse and repeat until the puppy can no longer keep his eyes open. Then we are carried up to the bedroom and placed in a nice warm cozy crate. I sit there with the door open stroking a puppy that is dropping off to sleep and as soon as they are in the land of nod I shut the door, put the light out and grab some sleep myself.

At some point before the sun comes up, puppy is going to wake needing the toilet. I put on my slippers and dressing gown, pick puppy out of crate, go downstairs and outside where pup is guaranteed to pee as soon as those feet hit the grass. Then scoop up puppy and back to bed, helping him to settle down before getting back into bed myself and grabbing some more sleep, before the inevitable early morning alarm call.

Day 2 is pretty much a repeat of Day 1. The evening must be spent entertaining the puppy so that come bedtime we are ready to sleep. And so it goes on and puppy falls into a routine of falling asleep when he goes in the crate and waking briefly for a wee and then going back to sleep again.

I have done this with every single puppy and every single rescue dog for the last 40 years and it has never failed.

Leaving a puppy to cry in a crate or downstairs alone is teaching the puppy to associate the crate and night time with being distressed, which is obviously not what you want to happen.