

# “CRATE TRAINING”

As Required ✓



- 🐾 Take the time to desensitize your puppy to the crate:
- 🐾 Place the crate in an area that allows the puppy to see his surroundings so that he doesn't feel isolated;
- 🐾 Line it with a soft blanket or other type of bedding that is easily washable;
- 🐾 Play with your puppy near the crate then toss a toy or treat into the crate for him to chase. Toss the treat at the lip of the crate then deeper into the crate for him to retrieve. Do this until your puppy is no longer worried about entering the crate (if the lip of the crate is elevated, cover it with a blanket so puppy doesn't hurt his paws).
- 🐾 Once your puppy repeatedly enters his crate without concern, you can start to use the “go to bed” cue, close the gate half way and let the puppy enter and leave as he wishes.
- 🐾 You are now ready to latch the gate. Simply wait until your puppy has eaten, is tired and has relieved himself. If you were able to get a blanket from his littermates, place it in the crate beside your puppy.
- 🐾 Close the gate and go ahead and do the things you would normally do. Try and give your puppy half an hour of rest time. When your puppy fusses, don't give in by soothing him with a soft voice as this will only encourage more fussing. Simply ignore him until he settles.

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## Why we should crate train your puppy.

Crate training your puppy helps to keep him safe and makes house-training efforts easier. It prepares him for visits to the grooming salon or extended stays at your veterinarian's office. Most importantly though, it gives him a den of his very own.

### Do:

- Select a crate that will allow him to stand, circle and lie down comfortably, especially when he's full grown. Use a divider to reduce the space while your puppy is small and increase the space as he grows. He should always be able to stand, circle and lie down comfortably.
- Take the time to desensitize your puppy to the crate:
  - Place the crate in an area that allows the puppy to see his surroundings so that he doesn't feel isolated;
  - Line it with a soft blanket or other type of bedding that is easily washable;
  - Play with your puppy near the crate then toss a toy or treat into the crate for him to chase. Toss the treat at the lip of the crate then deeper into the crate for him to retrieve. Do this until your puppy is no longer worried about entering the crate (if the lip of the crate is elevated, cover it with a blanket so puppy doesn't hurt his paws).
- Once your puppy repeatedly enters his crate without concern, you can start to use the “go to bed” cue, close the gate half way and let the puppy enter and leave as he wishes.
- You are now ready to latch the gate. Simply wait until your puppy has eaten, is tired and has relieved himself. If you were able to get a blanket from his littermates, place it in the crate beside your puppy. Close the gate and go ahead and do the things you would normally do. Try and give your puppy half an hour of rest time. When your puppy fusses, don't give in by soothing him with a soft voice as this will only encourage more fussing. Simply ignore him until he settles. Release him after half an hour. Remember that his mother left the litter at times so she already started the process for you, you are simply taking it to the next level.
- When the crate is not in use, keep the gate open for the puppy to access when he pleases.
- Use the crate as a place for rewards and treats.
- The crate can be moved from room to room which is especially handy at night.

### Don't:

- Use the crate as a form of punishment or allow anybody to crawl into the crate with your puppy.
- Place your puppy in the crate if he is excited or anxious.
- Yell at your puppy, kick the crate or become frustrated or angry. This will only make him more anxious.



## TIPS & BITS

- How long can you keep puppy in the crate? The rule of thumb is to convert your puppy's age from months to hours so if he is 3 months old, he can stay in his crate for 3 continuous hours. If you need to leave him in his crate for longer than that, consider having the crate in an exercise pen with water and a wee-wee pad or have a trusted friend come in and relieve your puppy while you're away.



**Windy Willows**  
PET SERVICES  
by Roxie's Balls