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# PUPPY GUIDANCE SHEET

## CRATE TRAINING

### **Crate training your puppy from an early age has many benefits: -**

- Gives your puppy a safe place to call his own den
- Helps speed up toilet training
- Protects your house from unwanted damage when out
- Acclimatizes your puppy to crates in case of any vet stays etc
- They are also great for car transporting safely

You should always buy a crate with the fully grown size of your dog in mind so you do not have to buy a replacement as they grow.

The dog should have enough room for his bed, be able to move around and stand up freely and have room for some toys and his food/ water bowls.

Ideally you should put a new puppies crate in a quieter area of the house although they tend to prefer to still be able to see or hear their family for comfort. A quiet corner of the living room tends to work best.

For new puppies you can add some training pads or newspaper to a corner of the crate in case they do have the urge to 'go'. This should be removed immediately if any accidents but no comments made to the Initially use tasty treats or titbits to entice them to enter their crate and leave the door open until they are waking in and out without fear.

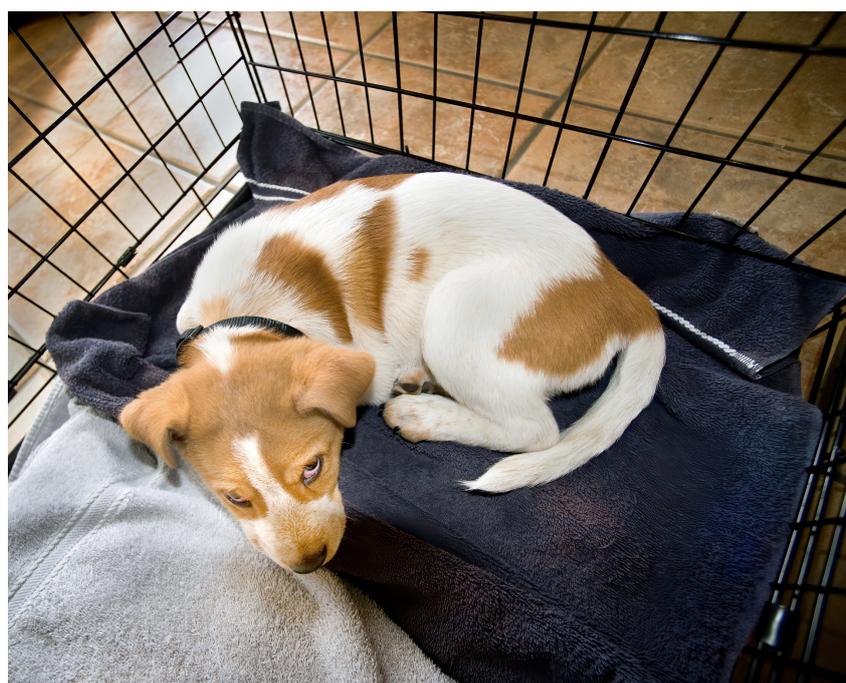
Feeding a puppy his meals in his crate or giving Kong toys etc which they can lie and chew on/ eat for a while are great ways of introducing your puppy to his crate for longer periods of time. During these times attempt to close over the crate door for a few minutes at a time then open again showing them they are safe and secure.

For smaller dogs i've always put them into their crates as they fall asleep which also has worked well for myself and my own dogs. Like babies they sleep soundly at times and waking up in their safe crate and warm bed allows them to begin to consider this as their den.

When letting your puppy out of their crate you should try to do this with as little fuss and excitement as possible. Make it 'No big deal'. Refer to their crate as their bed and eventually saying 'go to bed' will have them walking into their crate.

**NOTE: - NEVER USE THEIR CRATE AS A FORM OF PUNISHMENT.**

You can use a crate once trained and happy within it, as a space for a short time out, or as a consequence for overexcitement/ mouthing/ etc etc but it's important you do so without fear or fuss as you could teach your puppy to fear this space rather than to be content within it!



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