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14 Tips for Crate Training Your New Puppy

By Peggie Arvidson-Dailey

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Your new puppy is arriving and you have heard of crate-training, but are not sure how to make it work for you and your newest addition. From years of experience as a pet-owner, lover and specialist, I have learned some things about crate training that I'd like to share with you.

Crate training is wonderful part of an overall family training program if handled correctly. Your puppy will feel secure in his space if you make it a pleasurable experience from the very beginning by following these 14 tips.

1. Get a crate large enough to allow your pup space to turn around, stand up and lie down for a nap.
2. Put a soft blanket in the crate, preferably with his mother's scent on it when you bring him home.
3. Make sure to put his toys for chewing and a treat or two in the space furthest from the `door.'
4. Put the crate in a corner of room where he can feel out of the way, yet have access to you.
5. Let your pup wander in and out of the crate to get a feel for it, the crate makes a nice `den' for your puppy and he will likely take to it for comfort and solace when he is tired, over-excited or worried.
6. Remove your pet's collar/s before closing the crate to avoid any choking;
7. Have a bottle of water with ice hooked to the crate if you will leave your puppy for more than an hour;
8. When it's time to be crated, tell your puppy "Crate" or "Bed" and show him to the crate. You may put a treat in there if you have been training him with treats.
9. Don't ever: scare him into the crate, put him in there as a punishment or otherwise encourage a negative connotation to the crate.
10. Practice this several times a day during his first few weeks home. Leaving him in the crate for short intervals while you leave the house. He will soon realize that you come back and let him out.
11. If your dog needs something to chew, make sure you give him a toy that he cannot shred, break or otherwise harm himself with. If he is an aggressive chewer, I recommend the Galileo Bone by Nylabone.
12. When you let your puppy out of the crate, immediately take him outside to relieve himself. For very young puppies, this will likely be every 4 hours. (on average a puppy needs a break in as many hours as he is months old - if your puppy is 4 months, please give him a potty break every four hours)
13. When you are leaving, or putting him in the crate, give him his command, "Crate," praise him gently

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when he complies (but do not get effusive - you don't want him to get all riled up!) and then leave without a commotion.

14. Upon returning, open the crate and let your puppy come out at his own pace. Don't make a big fuss, simply praise him gently, put on his collar and leash and take him outside.

Crate training is a valuable asset to any training program for new puppies and can help enhance your relationship with your canine pal. A happy and comfortable puppy will mature into a well-mannered and loving companion.

Pet-Care Expert, Peggie Arvidson-Dailey, is the author of "How to Maintain Your Love Affair With Your

Pet" and the founder of Peggie's Pet Services. To learn more about maintaining YOUR love affair with your pet sign up for FREE how-to articles and FREE teleclasses, visit <http://www.peggiespets.com>

Why It Is Essential To Crate Train Your Pit Bull Terrier Puppy Dog

By Tim Amherst

Once you become the owner of a Pit Bull puppy, you will also acquire many new responsibilities as well. One thing that all new owners should do is crate train their puppies. Crate training can be very beneficial to both owner and puppy when done correctly. Crate training will make your first few weeks as a dog owner much easier and more enjoyable.

By crate training your new Pit Bull puppy, not only will you have a house-broken puppy in less time, your puppy will have its own space during that time, which will make it feel much more safe and secure. Crate training has been proven to help ease the puppy's transition to its new home, prevents the puppy from chewing up your belongings, and can help protect the puppy from many dangers that exist in the home. Puppies are naturally curious about their new space, and can easily come into contact with things that could harm them in the home.

Before you take your new puppy home, you will need to obtain your crate. Crates are fairly inexpensive and can be bought at most local pet supply stores. Some pet owners who do crate training also choose to make the crate rather than buy it, either option works the same. Whether you purchase or make your own crate, there are certain features it should have. Crates made of wire tend to work best, but the important thing is to make sure it can be divided into sections, so you can adjust it to the size of your Pit Bull puppy. It tends to work best if you buy a large crate and just section it off so that you won't have to constantly buy larger crates as your dog grows. It is also beneficial to have a removable tray on the bottom of the crate to make it easier to clean. The most popular crates come with trays that slide out, which can be a real time saver, especially for breeders that may have more than one puppy.

Once you have obtained your crate, bring your new puppy home and introduce him to it. The puppy will need to learn about his new space. As with training any animal, it is important to be consistent. It is also very important to never use the crate to punish your dog, as it will have a negative impact on your training. The puppy should feel at ease in its crate. Your time and effort will soon payoff, making you

and your puppy both happy in the end.

To learn all about owning, raising, and caring for American Pit Bull Terriers, visit today!



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