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Crate Training For Your Puppy

By Dy Witt

Teaching your puppy crate training is the first and best step in his life. It makes all the other steps in his training go so much smoother, much like a solid foundation makes for a superior wall. Establishing you as the Alpha member of his "pack" is one very good reason for starting your puppy in a crate when he is very young.

Another reason for crate training is that dogs love predictability. To know what is going to happen in any given situation makes him happy, and more apt to be the best-behaved dog he can possibly be.

A strong crate is the very basis of good puppy training. A wire crate with a lock is the best kind. Make sure it is large enough for him to stand up and turn around. But not so large that he can roam and wander around. A too-large crate will inhibit house breaking.

A crate that is just the right size will be perceived as his "nest", where puppies never "go potty". They will learn to hold it if you don't make a prison out of it. Never leave a puppy under 8 weeks longer than one hour in his crate. He will soil it, after struggling and suffering as long as he can.

Put a nice pad in there with a bone. Start with placing a tasty treat in there, he will go in and get it. Do this several times without closing the door, let him come in and out freely for an hour or so. Praise him highly each time he goes in, make it all very pleasant.

Then when his attention is on his treat, close the door. Praise him quietly, say, "What a good boy, it's ok, such a good boy!" In 10 or 20 seconds, no longer, let him out without a word, no praise, just a pat. Do this for increasingly longer intervals, but do not give him a chance to get upset. You can do this several times the first day.

Make sure every training session ends on a happy note, this is crucial.

Once he sees the crate is his own private territory, he will go in there on his own, expecting treats and your attention. When he does, say, "Wanna crate?" with a happy face while getting his treats. Start leaving the room while he is in there for 2 minutes and onward, gradually. When you return, don't make

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a fuss, just walk over and open the crate. In 3 days he will be officially crate-trained, ready to be left alone for an hour, no longer at first. Leave him gradually longer, slowly and carefully.

Q. Why do I want a crate for my puppy? A. Because they love it is the best reason. They feel very safe and secure in there. Here are some more:

--When you leave a puppy alone, he always has some measure of separation anxiety. This leads him to any behavior that brings him comfort, which is chewing, digging, or when it is severe, voiding his bowels.

--When placed in a crate, he feels safe because nothing can get to him, nothing can harm him. He will sleep and chew and wait for you to return.

--When leaving him overnight at the vet, if your dog is not crate trained he will cry the entire time,

feeling lost and abandoned. With crate training, he is sure you will return, you always do. Of course the vet's office is strange and will cause him some anxiety, but nothing like the pure terror he will feel without experience in being locked in.

NOTE: About crate-training, do not make a prison of his crate. Do not use it as punishment. Do not leave him there for more than 2 hours, just time for a long puppy nap and some chew time. After that he will cry. Do not remove him while he is crying. This will make him think he has to cry to get out. No matter what, make sure he is being good when you open the door. He will learn he has to be quiet to get out. Do not make a fuss when you are letting him out, just quietly open the door and take him out to potty. When he potties, praise him to high heaven! Dogs naturally do not go where they nest, but sometimes it happens. Do not scold, just clean it out with a bland face. He will learn the lesson. If possible, try to clean it while he is outside so he returns to a clean crate.

In 25 years of training dogs, I have never seen any one thing more critical for a dog's well-being than good crate training. And besides, they love it!

Dy Witt has shown, bred and trained standard poodles for 25 years. To read free articles, more about her dog and puppy training techniques and her new ebook, visit:

<http://www.DogTraining15MinsADay.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.

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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

<http://www.PitBullsRevealed.com/>

today!



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