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**Crate Training Tips**

**By John Schwartz**

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I, like many people, use crate training as an effective means of housebreaking puppies. There are, however, misunderstandings of the proper methods of crate training. Many well-meaning people with the intended goal of housebreaking puppies end up putting their pet in dangerous and unhealthy situations.

The first step in crate training is to get a cage big enough for your dog. If you are housebreaking puppies, get one big enough for them to grow in. But if it's too large, your pet may end up using one end as an elimination area. Keep in mind that some crates offer divider panels to expand the size as he grows. Choose one large enough for him to stand and comfortably turn and sprawl.

When crate training overnight, it is important to keep shoes handy to let your dog out as soon as you wake. Don't get discouraged when you are housebreaking puppies and they "go" the minute they see you in the morning (or 2 feet from the front door on the way out). It is very difficult for a puppy to hold his bladder until 6-9 months of age.

While crate training is excellent for housebreaking puppies, leaving a dog confined in a small area for too long can be dangerous. If you work extended hours, you should make arrangements to come home during your lunch hour to allow your pet to relieve himself. There are even services you can hire to do this. Forcing your pet to "hold it" all day can cause serious bladder and kidney problems.

When crate training a dog, leave the door open while he's not confined. Generally, in addition to housebreaking puppies, you are creating a safe place where your pet will feel comfortable sleeping.

Don't make crate training a punishment. If your dog eliminates in the house, trainers suggest making a loud, surprised sound – but avoid "NO!" as they might associate the act itself as something bad. Then take them outside. Be sure to give exaggerated praise when your pet eliminates outside so they will learn that it's a good thing.

Lastly, be sure your crate or cage actually keeps your puppy inside. If, when housebreaking puppies,

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you discover they are little Houdinis, consider confining them in a bathroom or laundry room with a pee pad or two, just in case.

None

### **Crate Training Your American Pit Bull Terrier: Will It Help Your Dog?**

**By Tim Amherst**

Crate training is one of the most often misunderstood dog training techniques. Many questions often come up when discussing the topic of crate training such as: "How can I use crate training to teach my dog to behave?", "What are the pros and cons of crate training?", and "Is crate training safe to use as part of my overall dog training program?"

This article will definitely help you understand crate training and what it will do to you Pit Bull terrier. After you're done reading, I'm confident that you'll have a much better understanding of crate training.

I get many questions from new dog owners on the subject of crate training. Most people really have no idea what crate training is or what purpose it serves. Quite simply, a "dog crate" is an enclosed cage area that prevents your dog from getting into trouble.

You can crate train your Pit Bull both inside the house or outside. You'll want your dog to have plenty of room to stand up and lay down.

So what are the benefits of you crate training your Pit Bull? There are many few reasons why crate training your Pit is a good idea. One reason is that a crate will prevent your Pit from destroying the inside of your house when you are away. Eventually, you'll be able to leave your dog loose when leaving the house and he won't be destructive while you're gone.

Another example of when crate training can be helpful is when you're traveling in your vehicle for a long period of time. Allowing your dog to rest in his crate during the trip will ease his fear if he has any issues with traveling.

Lastly, crate training is a vital component to properly house training a new puppy. Using a crate to assist in potty training is a very good idea and will help cut your pup's learning curve down drastically.

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

today!



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