

# Command Dog Training School



## INFORMATIONAL FLYER # 5

### CRATE TRAINING

The foundation for crate training is based on the principle that puppies will avoid soiling in their immediate sleeping/living area. Crate training may also be used to retrain adult dogs as well. It is important that the crate is the right size. If it is too big the puppy may soil in it. The crate should be big enough for your puppy to stand up, turn around and lie down.



When unsupervised, puppies should be restricted to their crate. Never confine your puppy more than 2-3 hours as a time. At regular intervals your puppy should be taken to a designated area outside to relieve itself. The owner needs to anticipate when a dog will need to relieve itself. As an approximate puppy crate training guide a puppy should be taken outside after they wake up, after eating, after playing and throughout the day at least every 3 hours. As your puppy relieves itself use words like 'hurry up' then praise them. Soon your dog will learn the command 'hurry up' means to relieve itself. It is important to praise your dog after it eliminates in the designated spot so it learns that it's doing good by going in that area. Never scold your dog for mishaps, it is not their fault, but the owners for not supervising them close enough. Pups will try to get out of their 'den' before toileting. Unfortunately, they do not consider the rest of the house its 'den' and may try to go somewhere else in the house. Select an appropriate toilet area outside and take the pup to it at the times that it is likely to need to go, warning signs can be sniffing, walking in circles, or heading off to an area it prefers. Some times the pup will refuse your selected area. It may not like the surface or noise. Furthermore movement or weather factors might intimidate it. Be patient and try to work out its preferences by allowing pup to choose for itself a few times then find a similar area that is mutually acceptable. If you notice the pup soiling in the wrong spot within five seconds say 'no', pick pup up and take it to the preferred spot. Praise and stroke the pup as a reward when it gets it right.

Pups will urinate sometime if they are overly excited. This can be a sign of submissive behaviour. They should not be punished for this for they usually outgrow it. When cleaning up the mess, use mild detergents, not cleaners with strong odour such as ammonia-based products. These seem to encourage pups to return to the same spot. It is better if the pup does not see you clean up the mess; this seems to reinforce its interest in that particular area. If the pup fouls in the street or public place carry plastic bag & clean it up

### Puppy Crate Training Tips

- set an alarm to remind you to let the puppy out to relieve itself.
- exercise your puppy before confining them to their crate
- anticipate – a puppy that suddenly sniffs the ground intensely is usually signalling that it is looking for somewhere to relieve itself.
- put the puppy crate in a busy environment such as the kitchen, so not to feel isolated. It is ok to put the puppy crate in your bedroom at night.

The key to making the crate the dogs favourite retreat and sleeping area, is to associate the crate with as many positive and relaxing experiences and stimuli as possible (food, treats, chew toys, bedding) and to place the dog in its cage only at scheduled rest and sleep periods. You must be aware of the dog's schedule, including it needs for exploration, play, food and elimination, so that the dog is only placed in its cage, when each of these needs are fulfilled.