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## Crate Training

Using a travel kennel for your brand new puppy will prove invaluable. The puppy will look at the crate as a bed area which will aid in housetraining, and provide a safe place where your puppy will be unable to eat or chew up household items.

**Note on using treats for training:** Some puppies will be happy to work for puppy food others may need something special such as cheerios or a very smelly treat such as freeze dried liver or hotdogs. Rich treats should be the size of a pencil eraser. (You may be able to split meals into four portions and use these portions for training purposes.)

### **Steps to help your puppy adjust to the crate:**

*This should be started as soon as the puppy comes home.*

1. Choose a quiet place for the crate. (Remember this will be like your puppy's bedroom). Having a crate in your bedroom will help you hear the puppy in the middle of the night if a bathroom break is necessary, and your presence will be reassuring.
  - a. Keep the crate small enough for the puppy to only sleep in.
  - b. Keep food and water out of the kennel.
  - c. Try a soft blanket, towel, or bed but watch carefully for any signs of chewing. If chewing, remove items to prevent the puppy from swallowing something which would need to be surgically removed.
  - d. Have a chew toy or interactive toy which the puppy can not destroy.
  - e. Some people have had success placing something warm in the crate for the puppy to snuggle up to. Be very careful since all puppies can chew aggressively.
  
2. Introducing the crate: Practice three times an hour.
  - a. Make sure your puppy has urinated and defecated before going in the crate.
  - b. Introduce the crate by tossing treats in the crate and allowing the puppy to get the treat and come back out. There is no need to praise the puppy for coming out of the kennel.
  - c. Keep tossing treats in the crate and ignore the puppy when he/she comes out of the crate. Some puppies will like the treats so much they will stop coming out of the kennel and wait for more treats. This is the time to sprinkle treats over the floor of the kennel and shut the door.
  - d. While your puppy is eating the treats, step out of sight. If you can count to ten and the puppy is quiet, toss a treat in the door, open the door, and walk away. Let your puppy stay in the kennel if sleeping.
  - e. Every five – ten minutes, place your puppy in the kennel, close the door, and step out of sight. Wait 20 seconds before rewarding a quiet puppy and opening the door.
  - f. Keep this process up by steadily increasing the quiet time before letting the puppy out. As long as the puppy is quiet with the door shut, keep giving rewards while lengthening the time by 10 seconds between treats.
  - g. Never reward a puppy that is climbing on the door or whining**

3. Teaching quiet:

- a. If your puppy starts howling/whining in the kennel, bump the kennel and say "Quiet". If the puppy stops vocalizing, poke a treat through the door, and open the door.
- b. Five minutes later put the puppy back in the kennel and wait for the count of 10. If the puppy starts howling at any time, bump the kennel and say *Quiet*, then start counting to 10. Keep repeating the bump and *Quiet* until the puppy is quiet and you can count to 10. Give a treat and open the door.
- c. If the puppy is very persistent and will not stop howling, rock the crate and say *Quiet*.. The puppy should be quiet for a few seconds. Reward quickly before the crying begins.
- d. Repeat this process until your puppy will be quiet for 1 minute. Most puppies will fall asleep by this time. Let them sleep

4. Advice on helping your puppy adjust to being alone:

- a. Do not carry or hold your puppy constantly.
- b. Do not allow your puppy to sleep in your bed.
- c. Give your puppy quiet time in the kennel routinely even if someone is home all day.