

CRATE/HOUSE TRAINING YOUR NEW PUPPY

A METAL, COLLAPSIBLE CRATE WITH A TRAY FLOOR WORKS WELL, AS LONG AS THE CRATE IS LARGE ENOUGH FOR THE DOG TO STAND, TURN, OR STRETCH OUT. SOME DOGS FEEL MORE SECURE IF A BLANKET IS DRAPED OVER THE CRATE. (THEY CAN ALSO PULL THIS IN AND CHEW IT UP.) A PLASTIC TRAVELING CRATE OR HOMEMADE CRATE CAN ALSO BE USED. PLAYPENS OR BARRICADES MAY ALSO BE SUCCESSFUL AS LONG AS THEY ARE INDESTRUCTIBLE.

BECAUSE DOGS ARE SOCIAL ANIMALS, AN IDEAL LOCATION FOR THE CRATE IS A ROOM WHERE THE FAMILY SPENDS TIME, SUCH AS THE KITCHEN OR DEN, OR BEDROOM, RATHER THAN AN ISOLATED AREA SUCH AS THE LAUNDRY ROOM OR FURNACE ROOM.

FOR THE CRATE TO REMAIN A POSITIVE, ENJOYABLE RETREAT, THE DOG SHOULD NOT BE USED AS PUNISHMENT WHEN STILL A PUPPY. IF TIME-OUT IS USED AS PUNISHMENT AS WASHROOM, LAUNDRY ROOM OR BASEMENT CAN BE USED FOR SOCIAL ISOLATION.

A RADIO OR TELEVISION MAY HELP TO CALM THE DOG WHEN IT IS ALONE. THEY ALSO HELP MASK ENVIRONMENTAL NOISES, WHICH CAN STIMULATE A DOG TO VOCALIZE.

INTRODUCE THE PUPPY TO THE CRATE AS SOON AS IT IS BROUGHT HOME AND AS EARLY IN THE DAY AS POSSIBLE. THE CRATE SHOULD BE LEFT OPEN SO THAT THE PUPPY CAN VOLUNTARILY ENTER THE CRATE FOR HIS FOOD, WATER, TOYS, OR SHELTER. BY MAKING ALL CRATE EXPERIENCES PLEASANT, THE PUPPY SHOULD FEEL SECURE AND COMFORTABLE IN HIS CRATE.

CHOOSE A LOCATION OUTDOORS FOR THE PUPPY TO ELIMINATE. A SHORT DIRECT ROUTE IS BEST. TAKE THE PUPPY TO THE LOCATION (PREFERABLY THE KENNEL RUN) AND WAIT UNTIL THE PUPPY ELIMINATES, AND REWARD THE PUPPY LAVISHLY WITH PRAISE OR A TREAT. AFTER SOME PLAY AND EXERCISE, PLACE THE PUPPY IN ITS CRATE WITH WATER, A TOY AND A TREAT AND CLOSE THE DOOR.

LEAVE THE ROOM BUT REMAIN CLOSE ENOUGH TO HEAR THE PUPPY. IT IS NORMAL FOR PUPS TO CRY OR WHINE WHEN SEPARATED FROM "THEIR PACK". ESCAPE BEHAVIOR AND VOCALIZATION ARE TO BE EXPECTED WHEN A DOG IS FIRST PLACED INTO ITS CRATE. IF THE ESCAPE BEHAVIOR IS SHORT AND MILD IGNORE THE DOG UNTIL THE CRYING STOPS. NEVER LET THE PUPPY OUT UNLESS IT HAS BECOME QUIET. FOLLOWING THIS WILL TEACH HIM THAT QUIET BEHAVIOR WILL BE REWARDED AND THAT CRYING CANNOT MAKE THE OWNER RETURN.

PUNISHMENT MAY BE NECESSARY IF CRYING DOES NOT SUBSIDE ON ITS OWN. FOR PUNISHMENT TO BE SUCCESSFUL, IT MUST BE HARSH ENOUGH TO STOP THE BEHAVIOR AND WITHDRAWN AS SOON AS THE DOG IS QUIET. A SHAKER CAN (A SEALED CAN FILLED WITH COINS OR MARBLE) CAN BE TOSSED AT THE CRATE. OTHER TYPES OF PUNISHMENT INCLUDE WATER SPRAYERS OR LOUD SOUNDS. IF POSSIBLE THE OWNER SHOULD REMAIN OUT OF SIGHT WHEN ADMINISTERING PUNISHMENT.

BY PLUGGING IN AN ALARM, TAPE RECORDER, WATER PICK BESIDE THE CRATE AND TURNING IT ON BY USING A REMOTE CONTROL SWITCH EACH TIME THE DOG BARKS, THE DOG CAN BE TAUGHT THAT BARKING LEADS TO PUNISHMENT WHETHER THE OWNER IS PRESENT OR NOT. WHEN THE BARKING CEASES, THE PUNISHMENT IS STOPPED. BARK COLLARS AND ALARMS THAT GO OFF AUTOMATICALLY EACH TIME THE DOG BARKS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR PERSISTENT OR DIFFICULT PROBLEMS

PLACE THE PUPPY IN ITS CRATE A FEW TIMES BEFORE THE END OF THE DAY. EACH TIME, INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF TIME THAT THE DOG MUST STAY IN THE CRATE BEFORE LETTING IT OUT. GIVE THE PUPPY EXERCISE AND A CHANCE TO ELIMINATE BEFORE LOCKING IT IN AND IMMEDIATELY UPON LETTING HIM OUT

AT BEDTIME, THE DOG SHOULD BE EXERCISED, LOCKED IN ITS CRATE, AND LEFT FOR THE NIGHT. DO NOT GO TO THE DOG IF IT CRIES. REMOTE PUNISHMENT CAN BE USED TO DETER CRYING. ALTERNATELY, THE CRATE CAN BE KEPT IN THE BEDROOM.

IF THE PUP SLEEPS IN ONE END OF ITS CRATE AND ELIMINATES IN THE OTHER, A DIVIDER COULD BE INSTALLED, HOWEVER, THIS CAN BE DIFFICULT, AS PUPPIES WITH AN 8 HOUR NIGHT SEEM TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO KNOCK IT DOWN—NO MATTER WHAT IT IS MADE OF. IT IS LESS STRESSFUL TO START WITH A SMALL CRATE AND GET ANOTHER AS HE GROWS. THERE ARE USED EQUIPMENT SUPPLIERS IN THE CITY. GARAGE SALES ARE ANOTHER GOOD PLACE TO FIND THEM.

NEVER LEAVE THE PUPPY IN ITS CRATE FOR LONGER THAN IT CAN CONTROL ITS BLADDER AND BOWELS. IF YOU DO IT MAY HAVE NO CHOICE OTHER THAN TO ELIMINATE IN HIS HOUSE. IF THE PUP MUST BE LEFT FOR LONG PERIODS DURING WHICH IT MIGHT ELIMINATE, IT SHOULD BE CONFINED TO A LARGER AREA THAN THE CRATE. THIS IS WHERE BREEDERS MAKE GOOD USE OF THE EXERCISE PEN. AS THE PUPPY GROWS UP THE TIME IN THE CRATE CAN BE MADE LONGER.

WHEN THE PUPPY IS INDOORS, IT MUST BE CONSTANTLY SUPERVISED FOR

ANY SIGNS OF ELIMINATION. IF THE PUPPY BEGINS TO SNIFF THE FLOOR, CIRCLES OR SQUATS, IT SHOULD BE TAKEN DIRECTLY OUTDOORS TO ITS ELIMINATION SPOT AND REWARDED IF IT IS SUCCESSFUL. IF THE PUPPY IS CAUGHT IN THE ACT OF ELIMINATING INDOORS THE OWNER SHOULD ADMINISTER AN APPROPRIATE PUNISHMENT (A HARSH NO OR PUNISHMENT DEVICE) TO REDUCE THE CHANCE OF THE PUPPY ELIMINATING IN THAT LOCATION AGAIN. VERY HARSH PUNISHMENT SHOULD BE AVOIDED OR THE PUP MAY BE RELUCTANT TO ELIMINATE IN FRONT OF THE OWNER ANYWHERE, EVEN OUTDOORS. IMMEDIATELY TAKE THE PUPPY OUT TO THE PROPER LOCATION, AND GIVE LAVISH REWARDS IF IT ELIMINATES. IF THE PUPPY ELIMINATES IN AN INAPPROPRIATE LOCATION AND NO PUNISHMENT IS ADMINISTERED DURING ELIMINATION, THE PUPPY WILL LIKELY RETURN TO THAT LOCATION TO ELIMINATE. ONLY WITH CONSTANT SUPERVISION CAN THE OWNER CATCH THE PUPPY IN THE ACT EVERY TIME IT ELIMINATES IN AN INAPPROPRIATE LOCATION.