

CREATING A HOME FOR YOUR PUPPY

Many people go to great lengths to select the right Puppy. They speak to breeders, go see puppies, read books, etc and unfortunately, they purchase their puppy, bring it home without considering a very important fact; creating a home for the puppy.

The results of not making a home for your new puppy are well known. The puppy has free run of the house, leaving messes in inappropriate places, shredding the newspaper, chewing books, eating juniors homework, munching on your best shoes or sometime snacking on the leg of the chair or the sofa. Alternatively the puppy runs loose in the backyard, continuing his playful antics and the wanders over to the neighbors, who under no circumstances appreciates his messes left behind or his puppyish behavior. At night the puppy is brought inside and locked in the bathroom for the night. All goes well until he decides that the bathroom cabinet is good to chew, or the towels rip up easily and the new owner gets tired of cleaning up the mess every morning.

Puppy proofing you home is much the same as child proofing. The difference being is the equipment required to do so, owning a puppy can be a fun thing with a minimum of hassle. If you do four things before you bring your puppy home.

Purchase a crate

Purchase or make an outdoor kennel run.

Fence in part or your entire yard.

Build a doghouse in the kennel run.

By preparing in advance for your puppy it benefits the puppy much more than the owner. The puppy learns where his home is - the crate, the kennel run, and the fenced in yard. These things remain constant as the puppy matures. These are the places that the puppy can play and sleep. The puppy as he becomes a dog, regards these things with a positive attitude. This allows the owner to confine the puppy in a specified space without it being seen as punishment. Most breeders will require that you have a fenced yard or kennel run before they will sell you a puppy. They can usually recommend the people who can install these things for you. They can also tell you the best type and size of crate to purchase. Their knowledge and experience is well worth listening to.

THE DOG CRATE

There are several types of crates, wire, wood and molded plastic. While wire folds up for storage, the molded plastic is what most breeder use. Airlines require molded plastic, as they are far superior in strength. A crate can also be an invaluable tool in housebreaking your new puppy.

THE KENNEL RUN

The most common kennel run is the one made out of chain link fence with a door at one end. There are two types—the one that is permanent and the other is portable. If you do not own your own home plan on moving or wish to change the location of the run from time to time, portable is the way to go. The height required and overall the breed determines size—German Shepard would require substantially more room than a Pekingese. If you work all -day the outdoor kennel is invaluable, assuming you teach your pet not to bark all day. It offers more protection than a fenced yard. The outdoor Kennel can be locked, and it lessens the chances of the dog getting loose or stolen. Puppies can and will cause havoc just from sheer boredom.

FENCING YOUR YARD

Having a kennel run and a fenced in yard may seem ridiculous. There are many instances where having that extra enclosure has saved the life of someone's pet. If you have a fenced in yard the dog can be allowed out for a good supervised romp. Having the kennel run, allows you to mow the lawn, spray with pesticide, plant your flowers, and keep them planted without having to keep your dog in the house. The choice on whether to use chain link or welded wire is sometimes a matter of economics. Chain link is more durable and by frat the better choice. The disadvantage is it is more expensive. Chain link is permanent, where in most cases welded wire is portable. Both kinds of fencing do a good job and are far superior to wood fences.

THE DOG HOUSE

You must have a doghouse in your kennel run. This will provide shelter from the rain, wind, snow, and cold weather. The breed of dog determines the size. You should locate the doghouse in the direction that is least likely to catch the wind or rain. There are many different designs available for doghouses. Whichever one you choose, the dog must have adequate shelter from the elements.

IN SUMMARY

By now you are hopefully realizing that equipping your house for your new puppy is probably more expensive than the price of your puppy. Purchasing the crate, fencing, doghouse, and kennel is expensive. However, these things are important and will benefit everyone in the long run. The ultimate enjoyment you will have with your new pet will make the expense seem worth it. **CONSIDER THE ALTERNATIVE.** Letting your dog loose in the yard answering the phone and FIVE MINUTES later hearing squeal of tires, and knowing just knowing...

You're right...Pete was killed on Grant Avenue at 6 months of age.