

# CRATE TRAINING YOUR DOG

## One Approach to Housebreaking

### YOU WANT ME TO PUT MY DOG IN A CAGE? HOW CRUEL!

Cruel? NO! If introduced properly, the crate can be the answer to many behavior problems that are driving you crazy! A dog can't destroy your house or eliminate on your carpet if he is being crated. Plus, dogs are naturally den animals. They enjoy a safe retreat away from the hustle and bustle, and it gives them a place to call their own!

### WHAT EXACTLY IS A DOG CRATE?

You can compare the crate to an indoor dog house. It comes in molded plastic or metal wire. The crate should have cozy bedding, be large enough for your dog to stand up, lie down and turn around in (no bigger, otherwise they will eliminate in the back and sleep in the front). It should be placed in a corner of the house that is used frequently by the family; the kitchen or den is a good choice. You may want to drape a sheet over a metal crate during private times to help your pet feel comfortable.

### HOW TO USE YOUR CRATE PROPERLY!

Leave the crate door open and take your dog to the crate. Praise him for being near the crate. Put some treats in the crate and reward your dog for going inside. Do not close the door at this point. Play with his favorite toy inside the crate. Make it a positive place! Once your dog seems accustomed to the crate, close the door for a short period. Give him a toy or treat and leave the room. If he cries, ignore him. After a few minutes of quiet, release him from the crate.

### HOW DO I USE THE CRATE TO HOUSEBREAK MY DOG?

- As soon as the first family member wakes up in the morning, take the dog outside to do his business. Be ready to praise him and give him a treat if he does. *Do this consistently!* Dogs learn through consistency and repetition.
- If he does not do his business put him back inside of his crate. You can feed and water him at this point. Be ready to take him out 20 to 30 minutes later. Again, be ready to praise him enthusiastically. Take him to the same spot each day; he will smell his scent there! Repeat this process until he eliminates.
- Try to follow this walking schedule during the training period: Take your dog out -- first thing in the morning, after he eats, before you leave for work, lunch time, as soon as you get home, after dinner and before bed.
- WATCH YOUR DOG! Don't give your dog a chance to make a mistake. When he is in the house, watch him. Keeping him on a leash near you is a good idea.

### SOME BIG "NO NO'S"

- USE the crate, don't ABUSE it! A crate is a training tool. Do not leave your dog in the

crate for extended periods of time.

- Do not use the crate as punishment.
- Never hit your dog with a newspaper or rub his nose in his urine or feces. Hitting him will only make him afraid of you and by rubbing his nose in it, he will associate eliminating with negative consequences. He will be afraid to go in front of you at all.

## **STILL DON'T WANT TO CRATE TRAIN? HELPFUL HOUSE TRAINING TIPS!**

### *FEEDING*

1. Put your dog on a regular feeding schedule.
2. Allow fifteen minutes to eat.
3. No table scraps!

### *BRINGING HIM OUT TO DO HIS BUSINESS*

1. Take him to the same area each time
2. Praise him verbally when he eliminates and reward him with a treat.
3. Follow suggested walking schedule.
4. Hang a bell on the door and ring it with the dog's paw every time you take him out to relieve himself.

### *IN THE HOUSE*

1. Do not leave the dog unattended, you will give him a chance to make a mistake.
2. It is a good idea to confine him to a small room or area.
3. If you see him start to eliminate in the house, tell him "No!" firmly.
4. Take him outside, show him where to go.
5. Do not CORRECT your dog unless you catch him in the ACT! Punishment even a few minutes after the act can be harmful because he won't understand.

