



Puppy crate training

Crate training can be useful as a way of confining your puppy at times when you cannot supervise him. It can also give your puppy a place of security, rest and escape that will reduce the chances of fearful or even aggressive behaviour. However crates can cause frustration or anxiety if used incorrectly and can prevent learning the right way to behave if used excessively. Guidelines for crate use are as follows: -

- Place the crate somewhere where puppy can get to it at any time
- Cover the crate on all but one side, but make sure your puppy wont overheat
- Bring a blanket or pieces of cloth from the dam's bed and put it in the crate for the first few days after puppy comes home.
- Give puppy two blankets and rotate washing them so he always has a familiar smell
- Add an item of old clothing you have worn or slept with so has your scent on
- Try offering treats and special toys in the crate to make it a positive place to be
- Familiarise puppy to the crate when you are there before locking him in when he is alone
- Never punish your puppy in his crate
- Don't use the crate for house training
- Never use the crate for 'time outs'.
- Don't lock puppy in for long periods
- Don't use the crate to manage behaviour when you are there. Use this time as a chance to teach your puppy the right way to behave.
- Stop confining puppy to his crate as soon as he is house trained and has stopped chewing. It can be kept as an open door sleeping place as long as your puppy likes it

