



Crate and Potty Training Puppies



Introduction to the Crate:

- Make the crate a den not a prison: cover the sides and top of the crate with a blanket
- Having a crate next to where you sleep helps them settle in at night
- Lure puppy into crate with a treat, close the gate then open it right away and repeat several times
- When putting puppy into crate, give a food hiding toy (Kong or Premier)
- Make sure he/she has gone potty before going into the crate
- Ignore initial crying as long as it is crying for attention only
- Feed meals and give favorite toys inside of the crate
- Use a hanging bucket of water to reduce mess: do not withhold water to try to control urination

Potty Training:

- Be consistent: use the same door, go outside phrase, and go potty phrase
- Train to potty first when going outside: take outside on a lead, say “Go Potty” and let puppy walk in circles around you; If no potty by 5 minutes, put pup back into crate and try again in 15 minutes
- Don't let puppy play in house until he/she has gone potty, once he/she has gone potty, you can go for an exercise walk
- Use favorite treat as reward for immediate post-potty moment
- If caught going potty in the house, say “No”, leash and run outside excitedly to go potty out there and praise when outside
- Do not allow puppy to free roam. Puppy can be:
 - Crated
 - Outside
 - Tied to your pant loop with a leash
 - Under direct eye-contact supervision
- Times to take out to prevent accidents:
 - After feeding
 - After take out of crate
 - Before put into crate
 - Getting up from a nap
 - Interrupt a vigorous play session to take out every 10-15min while active before bed.
- Bladder holding power during test: estimate 1 hour per month of age