

Mustard Seed Meadows

“Crate Training”: Keeping your pet safe and secure.

“Crate Training” is a descriptive term used by Veterinarians, Breeders and Professional Dog Handlers, and is a highly recommended method used to train your puppy and provide it with its own “Den” environment.

THE BENEFITS OF “CRATE TRAINING” ARE:

- It reduces housebreaking time dramatically.
- “Crate Training” teaches your puppy desirable behavior.
- “Crate Training” provides security and privacy by providing your puppy with its own “home” when it becomes tired or anxious.
- It provides you peace of mind by not having to worry about your home being damaged or that your puppy is developing bad habits.
- A “Crate Trained” puppy will travel much easier.
- “Crate Training” improves and strengthens the dog/owner relationship.
- A “Crate Trained” pet enables you, the owner, to feel comfortable including our pet on family outings instead of being left behind at a boarding kennel.

GETTING STARTED:

Your family should understand what the rules will be for your new puppy. For example, will the puppy be allowed on the furniture? Keep in mind the adult size of your puppy and consider that any behaviors you allow now will be difficult to correct, as the puppy becomes an adult.

Familiarize your new puppy with its kennel as soon as possible. Place a few treats or a safe chew toy inside to coax the puppy inside while leaving the door open. To ensure that the puppy’s experience is positive, never force the puppy inside. When your puppy appears to be ready to take a nap (after playing for example), place the puppy in its kennel along with a treat and close the door. Praise the puppy while he is entering the kennel. It is important that the puppy feels comfortable and that going inside the kennel is good behavior. Remember dogs want to please their owners, but

they need to be trained as to what the owner expects. Leave the room but stay close enough to listen to the puppy. Expect some whining at first but do not let him out (you would be rewarding him for whining). The whining may continue for an extended period of time. If the whining does continue, it is OK to console him without letting him out. If your puppy continues to cry, a loud noise (such as clapping your hands or shaking a can full of coins) may be helpful. Avoid raising your voice or yelling at the puppy. If possible ignore the puppy until the whining stops and the puppy has settled down. Then open the kennel door and praise the puppy for the positive behavior. Gradually increase the amount of time the puppy remains in the kennel but do not exceed the length of time the puppy can wait before needing to relieve himself (less than 4 hours). If the puppy has an accident while in the crate, clean the kennel and shorten the length of time between breaks until the puppy can go for longer periods of time.

THE FIRST FEW NIGHTS:

The puppy should be monitored throughout the night allowing potty breaks every few hours. Avoid playing with the puppy during these breaks. Allow the puppy to relieve himself, and then bring him back to the kennel. It is helpful if you give the puppy a small treat as he enters the kennel to reinforce the positive behavior. As your puppy grows, the length of time needed between breaks will increase and your puppy will then be able to sleep through the night in its kennel without breaks.

If you need to leave the puppy alone for longer than 3 or 4 hours, place the open kennel in a bathroom or laundry room making sure the doors is removed. Place newspapers on the floor for the puppy to relieve himself. The newspaper will also assist you cleaning up upon your return.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING TIPS:

- Because dogs are social animals, the ideal location for the kennel is in a room where the family gathers so that the pet can feel included.
- To ensure your puppy has a positive association with its kennel, never use it as a device for punishment. Instead, use

it to prevent behavioral problems (for example, if guests come to the door, place the puppy in its kennel to prevent jumping). If you do need to correct an undesirable behavior, place your puppy in an isolated room instead of its kennel.

- Do not feed your puppy immediately before placing him in the crate.

PATIENCE AND CONSISTENCY LEAD TO REWARDING RELATIONSHIPS:

“Crate Training” takes time and patience during the early stages of a puppy’s life. While this may seem difficult at first, the long-term results will be very rewarding for you and your pet.

IMPORTANT SAFETY TIPS:

- Remove your pet’s leach and collar prior to placing them in any crate or kennel to prevent accidental choking.
- ONLY PETS THAT HAVE BEEN PROPERLY TRAINED SHOULD BE PLACED IN ANY CRATE OR KENNEL.
- Leaving a pet unattended for any length of time may cause anxiety for the pet and cause them to scratch or chew to escape. This can be very dangerous and possibly cause serious injuries or death.
- Never leave pets unattended in a car.
- Choose the appropriate size crate or kennel for your pet. Your pet should have enough room to stand and turn around and lay down comfortably inside their crate.
- Follow all assembly instructions. Improperly assembled crates or kennels can be dangerous.