



CRATE TRAINING

A GUIDE

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Crate training provides a safe place for your puppy to relax and feel comfortable. Crate training has many benefits for your puppy. It provides somewhere safe and secure for your puppy to go when it is not possible to supervise him/her; it is helpful when toilet training (a puppy's natural instinct is not to soil their own den) and provides respite for a young puppy or dog at times when they feel overwhelmed or smothered with love from young children. A crate can provide a comfortable night time space, and is useful for transportation purposes or any time it is necessary to confine your puppy for a period of time.



How Is My Puppy Crate Trained?

The crate is introduced to your puppy gradually so that there is no fear attached to the crate. The crate is placed in your puppy's familiar environment with the door open. Fun toys and comfortable bedding are placed in the crate. You should not provide alternative bedding for your puppy outside of the crate so that your puppy will seek out the crate as the most comfortable place to lie down, sleep or chew a toy or a treat.

After this initial exposure, the puppy is exposed to spending time in his crate in new and different settings. We place our crates in the living room amongst the hustle and bustle of everyday life. We often attach an exercise yard to the crate so that the puppy has more freedom.

Burrinjuck trainers expose your puppy to the idea of "crate time" by pairing the puppy with a sibling. This seems to help puppy to feel a bit braver. It is a big step for a puppy to be on their own so breaking the puppy into a smaller group is a first transition. Although puppy training is introduced in pairs, we then gradually expose the puppy to crate training time on his/her own.

Burrinjuck trainers will place treats, toys and soft bedding in the crate. In the beginning we keep the door open and even let the puppy move in and out of the crate into the exercise yard. After the puppy feels comfortable to lie down in the crate and is feeling more relaxed, we will close the door. Initially this might be for only 5 minutes. Then we extend the time that the puppy is confined in the crate so that by the end of training, he/she will be comfortable with staying in the crate for a couple of hours and be comfortable in a situation when a human might leave the room.

It is important to keep the crate as a fun, safe haven for your puppy. **DO NOT** use the crate as a form of punishment. Keep it rewarding and associated with positive experiences. Use rewards such as food, praise, toys; relaxation and pleasure.

Common Questions

When would I use the crate with my puppy?

Crate training is useful for many different reasons:

- you would like your puppy to sleep peacefully throughout the night.
- safe transportation
- a relaxed and safe space for your puppy to be unsupervised
- to aid with toilet training
- a break from other puppies, children and/or time out

How long should my puppy be in a crate?

The Crate is a great tool for you and your puppy but don't over-do it. During the day your puppy should not be in the crate for more than 2 to 3 hours. This is because your puppy will need to relieve themselves and also because excess time may lead to a fear of the crate.

The exception to the 2 to 3-hour rule is at night time when the puppy may be in the crate all night. (as long as your puppy has relieved itself before going to bed and is let out early in the morning).

How big does my crate need to be?

This depends on the size of your dog. Your dog should be able to stand up, turn around and lie down. If you are wanting your crate to be used into adulthood, you should buy a crate that is the correct size in maturity. Dividers can be placed in crates to make them smaller in the interim to allow your dog space to grow into his/her crate.

What do I need to do with crate training after I pick up my puppy?

By the time your puppy comes to stay with you, he/she will have a great foundation and has been taught the basics. In order to maintain and develop this crate training, there is a couple of things you can do to assist:

- Leave the space open:
keep the crate door always open when not in use. this means that your puppy can enter and exit the crate at all times even though you do not necessarily need them in the crate. This means that your puppy's safe place is always available to him/her.
- Reinforce:
 - Keep toys and treats in the crate to create a nice vibe. The goal is to make the crate a fun and relaxing space.
- Encourage:
When your puppy is fully relaxed give him/her praise to let your puppy know that it is doing the right thing.

What if my puppy whines?

Your puppy may whine. The best thing to do in this situation is to ignore it. We need to avoid your puppy associating whining with being let out or forming an association that whining results in attention.

When your puppy stops whining and starts to relax, give them praise and love to show them that being relaxed is the best outcome for them.

Think about reasons why your puppy is whining. Has it been in the crate for too long? Has your puppy recently been to the toilet? Is your puppy anxious or uncomfortable (too hot or too cold)?

You may need to shorten the crate time, the following day.

How does Crate Training help with Toileting?

Your puppy will need to go to the toilet every 2/3 hours. To be specific, your puppy will need to go to the toilet after waking up from a sleep, after eating or drinking and also first thing in the morning and last thing at night.

Puppies don't usually relieve themselves in the crate as it is a small space. This can be useful as you can then predict when your puppy will likely want to go to the toilet and manage toilet timing. As soon as you take puppy out of the crate, take him/her outside to go to the toilet. Before long, puppy will be into a regular routine of when to do his/her business.

What does it cost to crate train my puppy?

For a fee of \$50, Burrinjuck Trainers will begin the crate training for you. We usually begin this training at 6 weeks.

We also offer a range of crate packages to purchase. The exact cost will depend on the size of the crate you wish to purchase. A medium size crate package is around \$265. Crate packages comes with a crate, an underlay, a blanket, a chew toy, a kong and a plush cuddle friend. We have various accessories for the crates as well. For example, exercise yards; crate covers and detachable food and water bowls. For more information about the crate packages we offer and other goodies, please refer to our store "Burrinjuck Boutique".

<https://burrinjuckboutique.ecwid.com>

Happy Crate Training.

Katrina