



KENNEL OR CRATE TRAINING

It is in a dog's very nature to den, it is a place of safety where they can eat and sleep, unharassed by other wildlife. A kennel becomes the dog's "room" where it can feel secure and where you know that your new puppy won't be able to get into any mischief. Not only does having a kennel help you keep your furniture from being shredded and shoes chewed on, it can help greatly on the way to potty training your pet and even keep it safe from harm.



The first decision is plastic or wire? Both have their merits. Some plastic crates are airline approved, allowing your pet to travel with you when you move. They provide a more enclosed sensation which could very well be like a safety blanket to your pup. Wire kennels provide more airflow, allowing your pet to view what is around him more clearly. If you're looking to only buy one kennel, wire is the way to go. Many come with a divider panel that allows you to adjust the amount of space accessible to your pet as it grows. Whatever type you chose, it is important to only provide your pet with enough room to stand up, turn around and lay down. Any more room than that and it's easier for your pup to have accidents inside the kennel.

What you put in your kennel is the next thing to consider. If you're going to be gone a while, you might want to invest in a water bowl; just remember, if your pup drinks, it will have to potty too! Beds or towels are a personal choice, if your pet likes to shred things, its best you leave this item out. Toys are always a wonderful option to keep your pup entertained or perhaps, a special chew that he only gets when he's inside his kennel. Food is best left out, for the same reason as water.



So what happens your first night with your pet and it doesn't want to go into its kennel? There are ways to encourage your pup inside without forcing it. Tossing small bits of tasty treats will help lure it in and slowly let it get comfortable with its new environment. Play toys are another good way of making the kennel a happy place to be.

If your puppy starts crying and making a fuss, the best thing to do is ignore it! By rushing over to it, you're giving your pet encouragement and it will be far more likely to repeat the noise! By ignoring your pet, it learns that noise doesn't get it what it wants and it will wear itself out eventually. Unless you're certain that your pet has to potty, wait until it is quiet before letting it out of its kennel.

GOOD LUCK!