

Crate Training

Crates are an excellent training tool to use with your dog. Dogs in the wild always had a den where they could feel safe. The modern crate acts as a den.

Uses of the Crate

- Toilet training as dogs do not toilet in their sleeping area.
 - A way to manage a dog if young children are visiting.
 - As a bed when going away on holidays
- Somewhere to keep the dog if something is happening that may be dangerous or stressful for the dog eg. home maintenance.
 - Helps in hospitalisation or managing some injuries.
 - Managing excitement

Never leave a dog unsupervised in a crate or leave the dog in it for long periods of time.

Toilet Training Your Dog

Allow your dog to play and wander around freely. Keep the crate handy and make it very comfortable and enticing . When your dog becomes sleepy put him/her in the crate. As soon as s/he wakes up; put on the lead and go out to where you want them to toilet. Reward with a happy voice and some yummy treats when the dog eliminates appropriately. Then repeat the process of play, resting in the crate and on the lead for toileting. Never rouse on the dog for accidents as s/he will not know what s/he has done and will just build up a negative association to you.

*An excellent DVD *Crate Games For Self Control and Motivation* By Susan Garrett is available from Clean Run Productions.*

Try www.crazysales.com.au for cheap crates



Conditioning the Crate

1



Throw yummy treats into the crate for your dog to find..
Leave the door open at this stage.

2



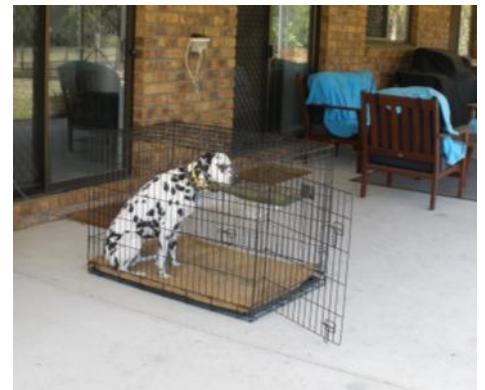
When your dog is happy to go in and out of the crate. Shut the door, feed a couple of treats and quickly open the door.

3



Gradually increase the time your dog spends in the crate. Always going back to reward him/her.

4



Teach your dog to stay in the crate till released. This is a safety measure so that you can use the crate to restrain the dog in the car and s/he will not run onto the road

5

