

TAKING YOUR NEW PUPPY HOME

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If you are bringing home a very young puppy she will have very little control over her bathroom habits. At about the age of 12 weeks you will see some good improvement in their ability to “hold it” Until then it is important that the set up for your puppy encourages clean habits.

The most important way to start good clean habits is to make sure there is a clear division of where your puppy sleeps/eats and plays, from where she goes to the toilet. Puppies naturally gravitate towards keeping their bed area clean, so it is up to you to set up an area where she can sleep, and play, and then move away from, to eliminate.

There are several ways to do this.

Single Crate Training

Use a small puppy crate which is cozy, and only big enough for the puppy to stand and lay in. Take the puppy out every 45 mins to an hour (unless she is asleep) to her toilet spot in the yard. Praise and reward any successful trips out.

The down sides of this routine are, you need to be at home most of the time with the puppy and you will need to get up at least twice in the night until the puppy is 12 weeks of age. At 10 weeks you can usually go to once a night.

If you get any accidents in the crate you will have to go to one of the other set ups.

Crate Training with a Puppy Play Pen. See: “Setup one” diagram

This is my favorite set up, and I personally would not have a puppy without a puppy play pen set up.

The up side of this set up is you don’t have to get up at night to let your puppy out as she can use the paper in the play pen. Also if you cant get home on time for whatever reason there is no pressure, the puppy can use the paper. You also have a nice play area for the puppy for when you have other things to do in your life but don’t necessarily want the puppy confined to a small crate.

Keep the newspaper area very clean, by replacing soiled newspaper immediately. Take the puppy outside frequently. The goal is not to teach the puppy to use the paper in the pen, but to get her outside. The paper is for when schedules don’t allow you to get her out.

Tie the crate door open so she does not get closed out. When your puppy is used to this set up you can then practice closing the crate door for short amounts of time. Give her a delicious chew as you do this?

Putting linoleum or a tarp under the playpen will protect your floors or carpets.

Crate Training with a Large Wire Crate. See: "Setup two" diagram

A) with a puppy crate within the crate (see Diagram)

This is the same set up as a puppy play pen but you use a double crate. The puppy has a distinct toilet, sleep and play area.

B) with a soft bed in a large crate (see Diagram)

Again there are distinct toilet and sleep/play areas.

FAQ's

Am I teaching my puppy to go the bathroom in the crate or indoors?

No. You are teaching your puppy clean habits. This is the first step in house training. You will try as hard as you can to get the puppy outdoors for bathroom duties, and as the puppy grows she will start to be able to "hold it" and you will find "accidents" will get less and less, until all the action is happening outdoors!

Can I baby gate my puppy into the kitchen, bathroom or the laundry room?

No, or preferably not. The kitchen may work, but be aware as the puppy grows your wooden cabinets may get chewed on. So good supervision is needed when loose in the kitchen.

The laundry room or bathroom is a definite no. Dogs and puppies like to be left in an area where the family lives. You do not live in either of those rooms. Your puppy will struggle more, and be more vulnerable to separation anxiety if you isolate them in these areas. There are many dangers here too, like wires and pipes to be chewed. Puppies can injure themselves climbing into bath tubs or toilets.

Is It OK to let my new puppy sleep in bed with me?

No, this will be a habit that is hard to reverse. However, your puppy can be in her crate in your bedroom (or you can move the play pen to your bedroom at night) You can also sleep by your puppies pen/crate for the first few night s to help her acclimate to her new home.

What if my puppy goes to the bathroom in my house?

Ignore it, clean up, and supervise her better in the future.

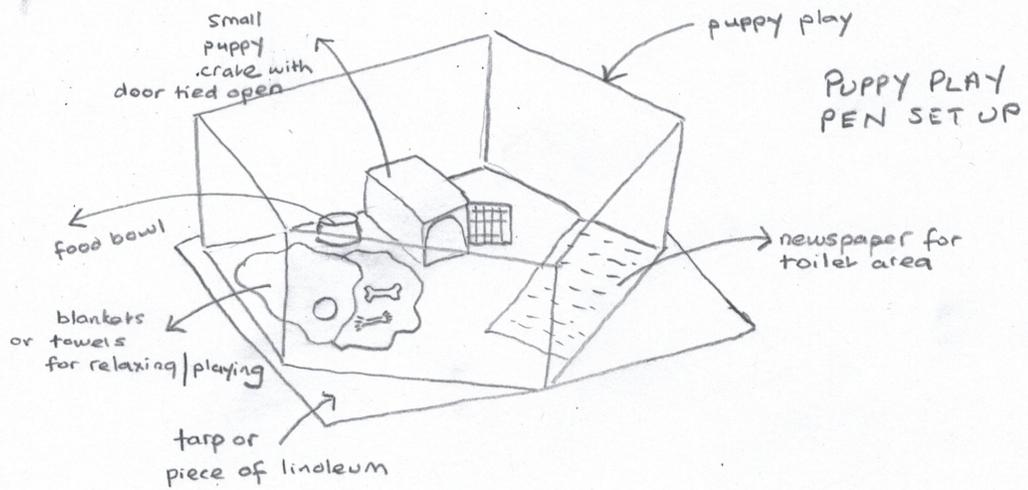
NO PUNISHMENT.

Please remember, as long as you don't use punishment and have you have good routines of taking your puppy out and rewarding success you will always get your puppy house trained.

Please see our House Training handout.

HAVE FUN WITH YOU NEW PUPPY!

SET UP ONE



SET UP TWO

