



Crate training

Crates, if introduced properly, are a great way to help our puppies settle and can help in a variety of different ways.

- They can become a safe place for our puppies to relax and sleep.
- They give us peace of mind when we go out and leave our puppies.
- They can help speed up toilet training (our puppies can hang out in their crates if we are busy and not able to supervise them).

We want our puppies' crate to be a great place that they enjoy going into and not a battle ground every time we try to put them in there. We can help our puppies enjoy their crates by ensuring that all the great things happen in there.

- Feeding our puppies in their crates (with the door open or closed).
- Randomly hiding treats or tasty chews in there for them to find.
- Ensuring our puppies aren't left in their crates if they are distressed.

The old advice used to be that we should put our puppies in their crates and leave them to it, if they cried we should leave them. More recently we have learnt that this can be detrimental to our puppy's wellbeing and that we should work with them to ensure it's a nice place.

- Comfy beds can help, something our puppy can snuggle into.
- Covering the crate can help our puppies feel secure (be sure to make sure your puppy can't drag the cover into their crate).
- Ideally your puppies' crate is in a quiet area of the home, which isn't too warm or too cold. If they are in the hub of the home there is the danger that they will feel like they are missing out on all the fun.
- If it is in a nice quiet area they are more likely to get that all important sleep (a young puppy needs around 18-20 hours sleep a day!).

In an ideal world we would bring our puppies home in the morning so we have the rest of the day to help them settle into their crate, this isn't always possible so for the first few nights (at least) it is preferable to sleep in close proximity to your puppy (either their crate in your room or you on the sofa next to them). Close proximity to us can help our puppies feel safe and secure in their crate.



Petplan have put together a handy [video](#) on crate training (if you would like a link please drop me a quick email and I will send it over)

Trouble shooting –

- Some puppies just don't seem to get on with their crates, if this is the case and you have persevered for a while you could think about using a puppy pen instead, these are similar but don't have as closed in a feel. There are a couple of things to bear in mind though:
 - A play pen often isn't as sturdy as a crate and if you put us on the larger size they may be able to climb out or move the pen.
 - Play pens are often larger than crates and as such your puppy may find an area away from where they sleep to toilet in.