

One Rottweiler Breeders Input on Crate Training Crate Training A Rottweiler Puppy

It doesn't take the puppy/dog long to figure out what they are suppose to do when you crate train them. Your new puppy will be on it's way when you take it home. You just need to follow through with what the breeder has started. A schedule is very important. One that is followed to the T. Dogs have good internal time clocks. I always crate trained my puppies. Dogs are den animals and it is not cruel. They actually get comfort and security from the crate. Dogs do not like to go potty where they sleep. It's that simple. If it does go in there. Clean it up right away. A little bit of dish soap, a little bit of clorox bleach and some water. Don't make the clorox too strong. Do not get up in the middle of the night either...that's teaching bad habits. You can use a medium to large crate. Do not put any towels or bedding in it. The puppy will just pee on them or chew them up. A knuckle bone can be left in to allow him/her to have something to chew on. It will help on his/her teething and keeps teeth clean and white. Make sure the puppy has water, remember though that what goes in comes out. In the beginning you need to monitor how much water you put in there. I use water bottles, it gives them something to do, they drink slower and it makes for a clean drinker. In the mornings you want to take your puppy out as soon as you get up. It will anticipate this. Don't spend a lot of time outside and don't socialize with the puppy at this time. It's time for the puppy to do its business. Once the puppy has gone, praise it. Just a pat on the head and say good boy/girl. Go back inside, spend some time with the puppy for 10-15 min. Feed your puppy in it's crate so it is a positive experience as well. For the first 6 months try feeding the puppy 3 times a day and then drop it down to 2 a day. Once your puppy has eaten, take him/her back outside to potty. Praise your puppy again. If you have time you can leave him/her out for a while at this point. Do not ever leave him/her unattended as this is when accidents will happen. Watch your puppy closely and rush him/her outside if he/she looks like he/she needs to go. Indicators would be if the puppy tries to leave the area you are in or is sniffing around on the ground. If your puppy has an accident in the house....ITS YOUR FAULT. You will need to correct him/her so he/she knows he/she has done something wrong. You can take them to the area, point their nose to it (NOT IN IT) and slap your hand on the ground. No, bad dog! Then take your puppy back outside. Using a pleasant voice tell him/her to go potty outside. If there is EVER a time that he/she does not go when you take him/her outside, put him/her directly in the crate once you come in the house. They catch on quick. They would rather be with their family and not in the crate. Sometimes this works within a week and sometimes it takes a month. It depends on the dog and also how fast their bladder stretches.

A schedule would look something like this...

6AM potty outside
6:10 family time
6:25 breakfast (never leave the food down more than 15 min, it can make a picky eater)
6:40 potty outside
6:50 family time or back in the crate

Then it goes in 4 hour intervals the next time he/she would go out is

10AM potty outside
and so on
as for the food you just need to give him/her the 2nd meal sometime mid day

The last time your puppy will go out will depend on your bedtime. You will have to adjust the schedule to your needs. As time goes on you want to make the intervals in between crate and going out longer. 4 hours first, then 5, then 6. This will help him/her if you are away from home more than 3 hours. If you are working try to schedule a time (lunch) to come home to let your puppy out. If you're not able to do this maybe a friend, neighbor or family member can.

It will seem like your puppy is spending a lot of time in its crate but your puppy is growing fast. He/She also needs their sleep. **Between 4-8 months keep playtime with other dogs to a minimum.** This is a rapid growing period for a rottweiler puppy and it needs its rest. After potty training is done the crate will now be used during the destruction and chewing stage. This way your puppy is a good boy/girl while you are at work and everybody is happy when you come home. By the time your puppy is 8-10 months old (depending on maturity) you will start weaning the crate. Eventually they don't stay in it anymore.

Christina Meacham

<http://www.vomblaurasen.com>