



Crate Training for a Healthy Happy Family

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Richardson Humane Society



Kennel Up! For Safe and Happy Pets!

Congratulations! You've just taken the first step toward ensuring a safe and happy environment for your pet. Whether you're the proud owner of a new pup or longtime companion pet, owning a Petmate Portable Kennel is an important part of daily pet maintenance. A Petmate portable kennel provides a similar "den" environment that dogs, in their natural habitat, tend to seek out. Because dogs have a strong natural desire to curl up in small areas, you can actually simulate your pet's "denning" instinct in your own home. With proper training, you can use your portable kennel to "potty"train, discourage behavior problems, and travel safely with your pet. Once he is properly trained, the kennel will become your pet's "special" place where he can always relax and feel safe and secure.

Choosing the proper kennel size plays an important role in the overall success of your pet's training. The area inside the kennel should accommodate him comfortably. Your pet should have adequate room to stand up, turn around and curl up. If you have a puppy and purchase a kennel that will house him when he reaches adulthood, block off the back portion of the kennel so that he does not "potty" in one corner and eat and sleep in another. Dogs will not "go" in the area where they eat and sleep.

Your puppy's training should begin between seven and sixteen weeks of age. Studies on canine development and learning prove that the most critical learning period occurs at this time. Kennel training during this period strongly ensures that your pet will be less susceptible to feelings of insecurity, nervousness and anxiety - feelings that may cause behavior problems. Because your puppy's kennel provides a great deal of security and psychological satisfaction, you can actually raise a better-adjusted and self-confident pet.

Introducing Your Pet to its New Home

Begin your training by selecting a permanent location in your home that provides adequate space for the kennel, away from drafts and sources of heat or air -conditioning. Place an old towel or blanket with your scent on it inside for bedding. **Do not use a dog pad or bed until your puppy has outgrown accidents and chewing.**

Introduce your pup to the kennel gently and cheerfully. If necessary, place a chew toy or little treat inside to encourage him to go in on his own. **Never force your puppy inside the kennel.** Be patient and he'll eventually go in on his own.. When he does, reward him with praise and a dog treat. It is important that your pet associate his "new" home with feelings of safety and security from the very beginning.

At first, keep the door open and allow your puppy to get comfortable with going in and out on his own. When you feel that he is happy and unafraid of the kennel, make him stay in it for a few minutes by restraining him at

the door with your hand. Remember to praise him and reward him with a treat! Next, gradually increase the time. Once he is comfortable with being inside the kennel at this point, you will want to restrain him at the door with the door. Again, always praise your pet and reward him with a treat for good behavior!

Keep in mind that this training session may take a few hours or days depending on the differences in temperament, sensitivity and breed of your pet. Be patient! Never scold or punish your pet if he is unresponsive. Your soft voice and praise will encourage desirable behavior. Once he feels secure in the kennel with the door closed, the pup will eventually sit quietly and sleep in his "new" home. You are now ready to "potty" train your pet!

Tips:

- **Do not leave your young pup in his portable kennel all day;** at best, a puppy can last about 1 hour longer than his age in months. For example, if your puppy is 3 months old, do not leave him in his kennel for more than 4 hours at any given time.
- During the first few days of training, place the kennel in your bedroom at night to help your pet adjust to his new environment and to alleviate stress.
- Petmate Portable Kennels are available in a wide variety of styles and sizes to accommodate any pet.

Potty Training Your Pet

Little puppies have to "potty" about every 2 - 4 hours when they are young. They are most likely to go right after waking, eating drinking and playing. Nevertheless, if you've chosen the correct kennel size, your pup will not potty while he is inside. This is Mother Nature's way of keeping the home clean. By confining your pet to a small area, you can be certain he will not go until you take him outside. Keep in mind, however, that your puppy cannot physically hold it the way an adult dog can.

Begin by guiding your puppy to the door, praising him at the door and guiding him outside to a selected area every 30 minutes. If he does not "go" within 5 minutes, bring him inside and place him in his kennel. Keep taking him out every 30 minutes until he goes. Praise him generously and give him another 5 minutes to make sure he is completely empty. Reward your pup by giving him 10 minutes of supervised free-time in the house before placing him back in his portable kennel.

After a week of no accidents, you can slowly lengthen the free time in the house. But if your puppy does have an accident, **do not punish or scold him**, this will make training more difficult. Calmly take your puppy outside to his area for a few minutes before placing him in his kennel. Watch your pup closely during his free time in the house so that when he sniffs and circles, an indication he is about to go, you can quickly and gently take him outside.

At about 4-6 months of age, you can gradually leave your pup in his home for longer periods of time throughout the day. By the time he reaches adulthood, you will be able to keep the door open all the time. Your pet is now "potty" trained and has access to the security and comfort of his kennel whenever he wants.

Tips:

- **Never punish your pet by putting or forcing him in his portable kennel.**
- **Never allow your new pup to roam through your house unsupervised.**
- Be careful not to ruin the effectiveness of the portable kennel by putting your pup in it when he needs to potty. Always take him outside **BEFORE** placing him in the portable kennel.
- A Petmate Portable Kennel is the perfect "house training" tool.

Discouraging Behavior Problems

Start training your pup early to prevent common behavior problems and you'll both enjoy a lifetime of rewards. Simply decide how you want your pup to behave as an adult dog and teach him to behave that way now. Obedience, when taught with kindness and affection, frequently increases your pet's confidence. Once this is established, you are on your way to building a long-lasting relationship with your pet.

Chew - Toy Training:

Chewing is a common behavior problem for puppy owners. Puppies have a normal and natural tendency to chew everything in sight. To help focus *normal* puppy chewing on approved objects, play with your pet using his toys. Let him have only three to four chew toys at any given time. If your pup is a problem chewer, avoid any "tug-of-war" games as this will tend to make him more orally fixated. Make sure that one or two of his favorite toys are always in his kennel during the day. This will help direct his attention on these objects and not your furniture or shoes.

Tips:

- Stuff hollow white sterilized bones with peanut butter, cheese, or a little meat. Two of these healthy treats a day will keep your pup occupied for hours!
- Rotate out three or four new toys every three weeks or so - a new smell and feel will keep him interested in chewing on appropriate objects.
- When your pup bites you, **don't grab his mouth or shout**. Instead, stop playing. The pup will learn the fun ends when he nips. After a few minutes you can initiate play. Repeat this process if the pup nips again.
- Chew - toys also help to discourage a pup's incessant barking by keeping him occupied.
- A Petmate Portable Kennel, when used correctly, aids in the proper development of your pet.

Traveling with Your Pet

Veterinarians, breeders, and dog trainers alike agree that having a kennel in the car is essential for pet and owner safety and for visits to the veterinarian. Pets, like their owners, are susceptible to injury while traveling as passengers in vehicles. Therefore, to make your pet's traveling experience as pleasant and safe as possible - kennel up! People should never forget to buckle up and your pet is no exception!

You wouldn't travel with your child unprotected in a car, so why would you travel like this with your best friend?

Although your pet might be a bit steadier on his feet than a child he can just as easily get injured if you're forced to make a sudden stop. An unrestrained pet can crash through the windshield or out of a window, or get thrown from the vehicle or the back of an open-bed pickup truck. So take the initiative - kennel up - and protect your pet with a portable kennel from Petmate.

During travel, your pet's kennel is his first-class seat so you want him to be as comfortable as possible. Give him a familiar smelling chew toy or blanket to help him feel extra safe and secure, especially if he is not accustomed to long car trips. If he is not used to traveling, begin by taking short trips to "fun" places like a nearby park or pet store. Because dogs learn by association, connecting "fun" with the car will make for a much happier traveler.

During visits to the veterinarian, the whole process is much easier if your pet is confined and safe in his kennel. If necessary, he may be treated in his private "hospital room", which makes movement restriction and administering medication and packs much easier. Your pet will definitely appreciate it and so will his vet!

Tips:

- Take your pet to his potty area before placing him in his portable kennel for travel.
- **Never leave your pet unattended in a car.**
- If your dog must ride in the back of a pickup truck, be sure the kennel is safely secured so it doesn't slide around.

Kennel up with a Petmate Portable Kennel for your pet's safety and your own peace of mind!

Requirements for Domestic Airline Travel:

If your trip requires that you travel by plane, be aware that airlines have certain requirements that must be met before you can actually board your pet. Call the airline well in advance and ask them about their requirements, which may differ slightly from other airlines. Doing so will eliminate a lot of unnecessary stress for both you and your pet! Know the following regulations BEFORE you arrive at the airport:

- All kennels must be equipped with food and water container(s), proper ventilation, lockable door latch(es), and a sign that reads "LIVE ANIMAL - This Side Up" placed on top of the kennel.
- Airlines require a health certificate, no more than 7-10 days old, ensuring your pet's good health and vaccination record (necessary for both cargo and cabin areas).
- Airlines have a one-pet-per-passenger policy.

- Airlines recommend pets wear an ID tag indicating a phone number in case of an emergency.
- The FAA requires that animals remain in their kennels at all times while on board the plane.
- The US Department of Agriculture regulates how many animals the airlines can allow in the passenger cabin on a given flight (*an advance reservation for your pet is therefore essential*).

- Tips:
 - Restrict your pet's food and water 4 hours before departure to minimize his urge to potty.
 - Freeze the water so it thaws by the time your pet is thirsty but won't splash out during loading or unloading. Take along a few of his favorite chew toys and something with your scent on it to help settle him.
 - Line the kennel with shredded paper or towels in case of an accident.
 - Consider a mid-week or late-night flight, it usually has fewer passengers.
 - **Petmate Portable Kennels are airline approved!**



Introducing a New Dog to Your Resident Dog

So you're thinking of adopting a dog? Good for you! But you have a dog (s) at home and you're wondering if he will accept a new dog or be mad at you for doing so? Following these tips will make the addition of a new dog much easier and less stressful for all humans and animals. Dogs are pack animals and have a great time with a dog buddy who plays different than a human friend!

When owners bring a new dog into the family there is a lot of joy all around --- except sometimes for the resident dog who may feel threatened by this new addition. Sometimes when old dog meets new, they immediately love one another. Sometimes though there is jealousy and it's important to understand that this is natural and can almost always be worked through if you make proper introductions and give this some time! Remember how long it takes for people to make real friends - well, it takes time in the dog world, too!

The most important thing to remember is that your adult resident dog needs to be treated with the utmost respect - getting greeted first, petted first, fed first, etc. The new dog will almost always be the lower ranking dog. Dogs have a strong social hierarchy (generally based on age) that we must respect otherwise we can accidentally trigger fights among the dogs. The other important thing to remember is that when your dog sees the newcomer the experience should be most pleasant for them. Lots of treats and praise words given in a 'happy voice' should be given to your resident dog when she is acting neutral or friendly toward the newcomer. Your resident dog needs to be thinking, "Wow, every time I see that new dog, I get food and attention!"

Things to Remember

1. Introduce the two dogs on neutral ground that neither is familiar with a park, neighbor's yard, etc. This avoids your resident dog trying to protect his turf and allows him to think of the newcomer as a 'new friend in the park.' Both dogs should be on strong leashes and preferably harnesses (rather than collars) so that you don't inflict pain that could be associated with the other dog. Whoever in your family your current dog respects the most as its owner should be handled by that person.
2. Another person arrives with the newcomer also leashed. IMMEDIATELY when the dogs see each other, both dogs should receive petting, happy talk, and treats! Make a fuss over your resident dog. The humans should talk in happy voices from a little distance at first while continuing to walk around. This gives the dogs an opportunity to look from afar and assume everything is okay since the humans are having such a great time talking!
3. When the dogs appear to be smiling at one another and giving friendly tail wags (not stiff wags) or issuing invitations to play (which is the front part of the dog's body lowered in a bow and the rear up in the air), begin to gradually approach giving your resident dog treats every few seconds. These should be

tiny bites of treats that the dog loves but doesn't get often and should be small so that the dog doesn't have to stop and chew-just happily swallow. If they continue to behave well, both dogs should be getting praise and treats. Remember to say the dog's name in front of the praise otherwise the dog doesn't know who you're talking to: "Scooter, good boy!" You might begin walking together allowing a little more leash for the old-timer so he can walk a little ahead (again showing the dominant rank). Permit no serious altercations (NEVER let dogs fight it out!) but distract instead. Should your dog growl, raise the hair on the back, snap, lunge etc. at the newcomer, do NOT yell at your dog or say anything at all. Instead you're going to just turn and walk the other direction about 20', so that your leashed dog goes with you. No food now. A little playful talk is okay to help dissipate the dog's tension. When your dog seems to have calmed, slowly approach the other dog again and as long as your dog is acting neutral or friendly, keep popping tiny bites of treat in his mouth and tell him how good he is in that happy voice. Remember your resident dog is associating this pleasant experience with seeing this other dog. If every time your dog sees the new dog, he gets scolded, your dog will begin to associate that with the new dog and, for sure, not like seeing the dog. Understand that with some dogs you may have to do this over an hour (and maybe on several occasions) in order to get some dogs to accept one another.

4. Even after things have gone well on the neutral turf, it's recommended to repeat step #3 now in your own backyard. And extra supervision is called for if the new dog is much smaller than the resident dog - don't leave them alone unless you are confident all is well.
5. Give this time and don't be afraid that your dog is going to be mad at you for bringing another dog into your family. The author of this article, a volunteer with the Richardson Humane Society, has 6 dogs ranging in size from 19 to 75 pounds and each time she introduces a new dog, she reports an adjustment period every time; however, as soon as that is over, there are more new friends for each dog to play with! She adds that they do tend to develop closer friendships with some but all get along well! All dogs are greeted by rank, petted by rank, etc. and she says to be obvious about this!
6. One last tip, animals will get along better when all are spayed and neutered. In addition, spaying and neutering can prevent certain cancers, reduce aggression (not protection capability), and help to reduce the horrible problem of pet overpopulation.
7. If the above recommendations are not working as well as you want, consider seeking help from an experienced animal behavior trainer early in the process. Carefully select someone who uses only positive reinforcement. Probably only one or two sessions is all that's needed to solve the problem and you'll have a lifetime of love for yourself and your current companion animal!

Thanks to Diane Arrington, owner of PetPerfect Academy, Dallas, 972-484-8882, **for consulting on this** pamphlet. Ms. Arrington offers individual consultations as well as group obedience classes. She is also the author of *Seventh Sense: A Collection of True, Unsolved Mysteries from the World of Animals* (www.1stbooks.com)