

Your New Puppy and the First Few Nights

The first few nights that your puppy is away from his litter mates can be really hard for him if you don't follow these easy steps:

Never let him out of your site unless you put him in his crate.

Your puppy will usually want to go potty after going for a walk, after eating, drinking and playing so watch him closely.

You have to see him make a mistake in order to correct the behavior, so be ready for him to potty on the floor. Take him out to give him the opportunity to potty every two to three hours.

If you see him whine and walk in circles or walk backwards or walk to the door, he needs to go potty. Don't scold him when he goes potty, just say in a very loud voice **"NO POTTY IN THE HOUSE" "NO"** and then carry him outside to go potty or finish going potty. He may be too scared to at this point but wait as long as you can and give him time, talk to him nicely while outside, praise him **"good outside potty"** then both of you go back in and clean the floor. Repeat every time he has an accident.

Do not let your puppy have any food or water after 5 pm. Your puppy will not want to pee in his crate unless it is too big, so block off most of the area with a piece of wood or get one that has dividers or use a kitten crate in the beginning. He will have an accident or two, but should be fine in a few days. In the crate put the stuffed animal that has the litter scent on it, an old towel and that's it. No food, water or chewy treats, he may have a quiet toy at night and a squeaky toy during the day.

At night time, the best way to train your puppy is to use the small kitten crate and put it on top of his new big crate so that as you lay in your bed, you should be able to reach your hand out, touch the metal door and reassure him that you are right there and he is not alone. One good trick is if on the first day or two you are having trouble with him crying in his crate; start to leave the house for different

time intervals as to confuse him to how long you will be away. Leave and go grocery shopping; soon he will be used to his little space and actually enjoy the space. As soon as you get home you will need to wait each time a little longer before you open it up, but then you need to pick him up and carry him outside to go potty where you want him to go. If you leave him outside on his own for a while, make sure there are no ledges that he could fall off or any other hazards.

The dog crate is a good place for your puppy to rest and sleep. A wire mesh or fiberglass crate helps your family by keeping your puppy confined and safe while the family is busy or when the puppy is left alone. Your puppy needs to feel he is part of the family pack so you need be able to move the crate from room to room if possible in the beginning; using the kitten crate always keep it up high so he can make easy eye contact and he can see you making dinner or whatever. Crates also provide a haven for the puppy when it is tired or wants the security of being out from underfoot.