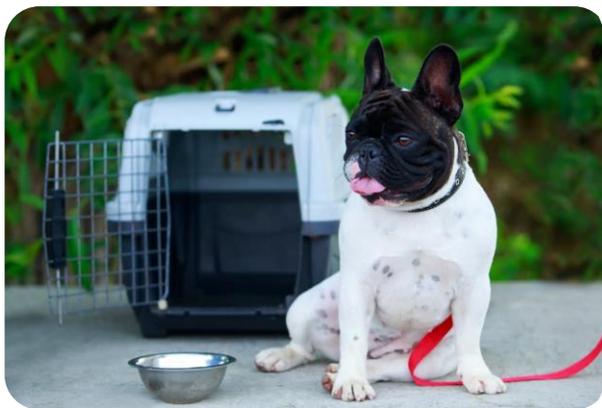


Crate Training for your Dog

**What is the benefit for
crate training?
Is there a no stress
crate training?
Step by Step Introductions.**



For more information about
the French Bulldog
or Breeder Referral Services

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CRATE TRAINING FOR YOUR DOG

Crate training helps to prevent chewing, barking or dirtying in the house. It calms anxious dogs and teaches hyperactive dogs to sleep when you are away. It becomes a home away from home wherever you go.

Both solid plastic airline type crates and wire mesh crates work well. If you get the wire mesh variety, invest a few more dollars and get the folding kind. This makes them easy to store and to travel with when the training period is over. NEVER leave a collar on your dog in the crate. If it gets caught- and it can- the dog can strangle itself.

If the crate is used correctly, your dog will regard it as a 'room of its own'. It's a safe, clean, comfortable place to leave your friend when you can't watch over him. Most dogs try not to urinate or defecate in the crate if they can help it. You will use this instinct to your advantage when you housebreak your dog. Introducing the crate is easy- it just takes time. If you use the crate when the pup is young, he will adjust readily.

Step 1 – Introducing the Crate

Puppies should not be crated for more hours than they are months old plus one. Meaning a three-month old pup should not be crated for more than four hours, a four-month old for five hours, etc. The self control of puppies varies, let your puppy guide you. The adult dog can be left for eight to nine hours in the crate, but it is mentally and physically hard on the animal. Large amounts of exercise before or after such stints in the crate are a must. You try not going to the bathroom for eight hours.

- Puppies can usually hold it overnight by four months of age if consistent feeding and watering schedule is followed

- Never put papers in the crate. You're trying to teach him NOT to go in there
- If your dog dirties its bedding, don't put any in with him
- Don't expect a puppy to get muscle control until four months of age
- Put a towel under the crate, between the crate and the floor. This will keep it from rattling when the pup steps into it
- Store all toys and a few treats in the open crate. Allow the dog to get things if he wishes
- Feed your companion in the crate

Step 2- Closing the door

Once the pup goes in and out of the crate without fear, it is time to close the door.

- Put your pup in when he is tired and ready for a nap
- To keep him occupied, give him a Nylabone or a stuffed Kong toy with healthy treats.
- When you put the pup in or take him out, you want a minimum fuss, set a positive tone
- Leave him in for a few minutes, then let him out. DO NOT let him out if he is barking or whining, as this rewards him for being noisy.
- Close the door when he is eating, take him outside the minute he finishes

Step 3- What to do about the noisy puppy

- Try ignoring it. Some pups will settle after 10 minutes or so
- A hot water bottle wrapped in a towel calms some pups
- If he doesn't quiet down, give a commend; "quiet". You may have to repeat this a few times until he links the command word with this barking or whining and stay quiet. Give praise word to reward the behaviour desired.
- If it continues, use a shake can out of sight. A quick shake of the can will quiet most puppies

- If after three to four shakes the puppy is not quieting down, toss a shake can from out of sight near to the crate. Do not say anything, you want the dog to think this has nothing to do with you – it just happens when he barks.

General Rules for Housebreaking

Routine, prevention, proper cleanup and common sense are the ruling forces of house-breaking and paper training. Housebreaking means teaching your dog only to go to the bathroom outside. Paper training, means teaching him only to use papers in the house.

You can't do both at once.

- Pups must urinate and defecate first thing in the morning and last thing at night.
- He must be taken to his papers or outside anytime he comes out of the crate, after he wakes up, eats, plays hard or chews
- Out of sight is into trouble. If your pup likes to run out of sight, keep a lead on him in the house. Close supervision is the key.
- Cleaning with an odor neutralizer is a must! NEVER use a product with ammonia in it. Ammonia is in urine and that familiar smell will be an invitation to the pup
- If you catch the pup making a mistake, make a startling sound by slapping the wall or clapping your hands. This will often stop him mid pee. Then scoop him up and take him to the right spot. When he finishes what he started praise him.
- Do not rub his nose in it, yell, spank or swat him. His is a baby. This is a mistake, not a felony. If you make a big deal of it you are in for more problems.
- Put your pup and yourself on a walking schedule.
- Keep the schedule the same on the weekends. You can sleep in when he's housebroken. Routine, routine, routine. You teaching the puppy when he can "expect" to go out
- Take the pup to the same area all the time. This will stimulate him to go quickly. Select a spot that

is convenient for you. Take him to it every time and he'll soon learn exactly why he's there.

- Don't dawdle. If he's gone, praise him well and then go back in – unless, of course, this is one of his exercise walks. In that case, take him to his spot, wait till he goes, then exercise him. This is another way to reward him for going outside.

- Teach the pup to go on command by saying "Hurry up" as he squats. Praise him calmly until he'd done, then make a big deal over him and give him a treat. In a few weeks he'll squat as soon as you say "Hurry up". This is a great command when you're running late or it's cold and rainy outside.

- Once you have had on clean week, then you can add a half-hour to every free period. Pups on this strict type of schedule need plenty of exercise – 15 minutes 3 times a day chasing a ball, playing with another dog or walking fast. If you want to spend some extra time with your pup inside, then put a leash on him and keep him near you after the free period. Be sure he has a toy or Nylabone to entertain himself with. This will keep him near you and out of trouble.

- Once the pup has three weeks clean, eliminate the after-meal walks. As the dog matures, slowly shift midday walks to later in the day until you are just walking the dog in the morning, when you get home from work and before bed. Usually by seven months, puppies are read for three walks a day but, as always, let your puppy be the guide.

