

Crate Training, Toilet Training and Sleep

Firstly, when I give a puppy a 'time-out session', which is not very often, this has usually occurred because the puppy has got over tired or over aroused. If you constantly and pro actively reward good behaviour, teach appropriate play and allow set times for rest, time-outs should not be necessary.

However, if your puppy needs to be removed from a situation because you want to stop the behaviour then a time-out can be used. The aim of a time-out is to stop the behaviour and stop the puppy from continuing to indulge in it, giving the puppy time to think about what just happened because they chose to do that particular behaviour. You have also stopped any rewards or reinforcement that behaviour was getting which is usually your attention. Examples include excessive lunging, biting, and grabbing, in an over-aroused puppy.

Attempting to physically or verbally stop the behaviour will probably just increase arousal and the behaviour will become more intense as you are still giving attention and engaging with the puppy.

The time-out stops the inappropriate behaviour, removes any rewards and gives the puppy time to settle. As long as you have been and still are putting many positive associations to the crate and you are giving a time-out as an absolute last resort, it will be ok.



Five steps to creating a conditioned emotional response to the crate.

- 1) Feed meals, in a bowl inside the crate.
- 2) Give stuffed Kongs in it.
- 3) Give chews in it.
- 3) Put blankets/toys from their breeder in it that smell of mum, brothers and sisters.
- 4) Play the **Crate Game**.

What to do at night?

Depending on what your set up and home is like will determine what to do with your puppy at night. Here are a couple of options:

1) An open crate inside a puppy pen. This means you can set up a sleeping area at one side and toileting area at the other so your puppy gets used to getting up and going away from its bed to toilet. If your puppy wakes up in the night, it can go to the toilet in its pen.

2) Putting your puppy in a crate downstairs or taking your puppy in its crate to bed with you, closing the door but being in the same room as your puppy so you can hear it wake up and get up to take it outside to toilet.

Always carry your puppy out of the crate to your garden or it will just pee on the way. They will need to pee very soon after waking up. Make sure your puppy gets lots of praise for toileting in the right places.

