

Housebreaking tips for 8-16 week old puppies Important crate training tips

Feng Shui with Fido™ Philosophy: Many people feel badly using a crate to train their new puppy. The methodology behind the theory of crate training a puppy is to use the crate to comfort because they are den animals. This means they love small spaces, something over their heads and feel really safe and secure in these cozy little spaces. A puppy would naturally want to fall asleep under a table. So it's your job as a dog parent to create that sense of security for your new puppy.

Having said that, you should NOT randomly put your puppy in a crate and shut the door! All puppies (no matter what breed) go through developmental stages throughout puppyhood. For a puppy, this stage means eating, playing, peeing, pooping and sleeping! This is the preparation stage of housebreaking and your job (during this 8 to 12 week old stage) is to set the crate so your puppy wants to naturally go in and out, without being locked in it. This is best accomplished by putting the crate within a gated or corralled space. This creates a safe playpen area for your puppy to hang, play, be able to go in and out of the crate whenever, and naturally den. Plus, it keeps your pup out of trouble when you're not playing with him/ her.



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get:

1. A baby gate or corral (aka exercise pen).
2. A crate
3. Crate pad
4. 2 Bowls: one for food, one for water.
5. Puppy Toys/chew bone
6. Newspapers or wee-wee pads
7. Sound machine
8. Download a Feng Shui with Fido™ "potty schedule."
9. Download the Feng Shui with Fido™ training tip "How to reprimand your dog: housebreaking".

put: Putting it all together.

1. Put the crate and a crate pad (in the crate to make it cozy) within a gated or corralled area (whichever is right for you).
2. Put newspapers or wee-wee pads down on the opposite end of where the crate is placed.
3. Make sure the newspapers or wee-wee pads are not in front of the opening of the gate or corral. That way, he won't walk in his potty mistakes when saying hello to you as you approach the gate or corral door.
4. If you choose to use newspaper during this baby puppy stage, line your floor with heavy plastic and tape the edges. Then lay the newspaper on top of the plastic.
5. Additional option to newspapers or wee-wee pads is



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- artificial grass or a pooch potty.
6. A bowl of water should be in the space at all times
 7. Toys
 8. Sound machine is used to create a lulling sound and help reduce separation anxiety for new puppies.

use: A crate is used to create a sense of security for your puppy. The door of the crate should be kept open or temporarily taken off, while placed within the corralled or gated area. This enables your puppy to venture in and out of the crate whenever he wants, and naturally den and get cozy.

when: This puppy area should be the primary space for your puppy to hang out. Sure, your puppy can have lots of free play time with you loose in the house. Just remember accidents will happen. This is the equivalent to the diaper stage for human babies. So just remember to not give too much free time all at once.

where: Using the baby gate or corral depends on the space available in your home. The baby gate is great for traditional homes. Gating a space can be creatively designed by gating off a hallway, part of a kitchen or even a bathroom. Remember this puppy space is temporary. The corral is great for modern open concept homes. It's a



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freestanding pen with a door and easily moved around the house.

why: Creating this puppy space allows your 8- 16 week old puppy to safely get used to a routine, household noises, and be able to go potty on newspapers or wee-wee pads. During this very young stage of development, your puppy is not fully inoculated. In other words, does not have all of its shots and is too young to go outside potty. Yes, it has had some shots but not the complete set of vaccines that it will at 16 weeks. Better to be safe than sorry. Don't worry the next phase of housebreaking will come soon enough. Enjoy this one.

How to make the set up successful: Set up the puppy space and keep the crate door open to allow your puppy to walk in and out. Additional tips for success are as follows:

1. Make sure you do not lean over the gated space and coo at your puppy. This will teach him to jump up on the gate upon seeing you. Later this will be a real drag.
2. Feed your puppy within the gated space. This will allow him to eat in peace. If he needs to go potty the newspapers or wee-wee pads are already there.
3. Use the sound machine. Tire your puppy out with play



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before putting him back in the puppy space. Put the sound machine on and massage or cuddle your puppy, a few minutes before leaving. This should reduce crying and separation anxiety.

4. **Guests coming over:** Whoever comes to visit your new puppy should do so silently until the puppy is out of the gated space. All puppies go crazy for high-pitched voices and excitement. Remember, we are teaching your pup manners so let him out of the gated space first, then go crazy with love!

5. **Other household pets:** This space is excellent to let all other household pets get used to the new puppy. Do not feel bad. It's great for everyone to see each other and get used to each other's smells. Remember, all relationships take time to develop.

6. **One of the primary goals** when getting a new puppy is to teach him a little independence so separation anxiety does not occur. This is the right stage to teach your pup to chill alone. You have the next 15 years to have your pup (when trained) sleep in your bed, if you want. For now, it's important to be able to teach your puppy to be OK to be alone, too. After all, you will have to leave the house once in a while.

