

# ***HOUSEBREAKING YOUR DOG***

Housebreaking depends upon the instinct of dogs to keep their bed clean. You can make use of this instinct by creating a sort of home "den" for them. Dogs are "den animals". Their own private place gives them a sense of security. Confinement is **NOT** cruel unless abused. Do this by obtaining a crate that is big enough for the puppy to turn about in and even to lie at full length, but no larger. Metal cages work best because they are strong and provide the least obstruction to vision. Airline crates will also work. *A puppy does not want a mess in his bed and then **sleep in it!*** However, if the box is so large that he can relieve himself in one end and sleep in the other, he will do so. Bedding can be plain newspaper laid out.

***Remember that on the very first day it is important to start giving the puppy all his naps in the crate. Puppies sleep 75% of the time. When the puppy awakens from his nap, you immediately take him out of the crate and carry him outside to a spot that you previously have selected.*** You must take him to this spot **before** and **after** play; always when he awakens from a nap; eats, drinks, and always the first thing in the morning and last thing at night. You must "never just put him out". Instead, you must take him to this spot, urge him to go, and **PRAISE** him when he does. Within a week, you'll have him going on command.

## **POINTS TO REMEMBER:**

- 1. A dog can only understand scolding and praise if it occurs within a half second of the event you are trying to control.** Catching a puppy "in the act" is the best time to scold or praise. After the event has occurred, it is too late to scold, or praise, because the puppy will associate your feedback with whatever he is doing at the time, not ten minutes before. **Rubbing his nose in his mistakes is a worthless technique and only confuses the dog.**
- 2. Dogs need to relieve themselves after eating, sleeping and playing.**
- 3. Feed your puppy the same time every day.** This will help keep the dogs digestive system regular and it will be easier to predict when he needs to go out.
- 4. Start housetraining on a weekend when everyone will be home and able to help.**
- 5. If a mistakes happens, clean it up well and spray an odor neutralizer on the wet spot and rub it in well.**

Good luck and please consult our clinic if you are having any difficulties in housebreaking your puppy. Using these guidelines, a puppy of six to eight weeks can be housebroken within a couple of weeks.