



TIPS ON WELCOMING YOUR NEW DOG!

*We're the
"open-door"
shelter
serving our
community's
neediest
animals!*



CONGRATULATIONS! And thank you for adopting from the Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter!

One of our most important goals is to make sure the community knows about the amazing variety, beauty and spirit of the animals under our care. You've obviously been moved by one of these animals, and we're so happy for that animal and for you!

We are this community's only "open-door" shelter, which means that we accept every animal that comes to us, regardless of age, breed or medical condition. And they come in every size, color and personality you can imagine. Some come with special needs and challenges, of course, but also with hope and trust and love in spite of what the world has brought to them. Our mission is to find every adoptable animal a home.

We couldn't accomplish our mission without the ongoing support of this community. We ask people to help us in three ways: by adopting, by volunteering and by donating funds to assist us in helping more animals.

- Adopting is a cooperative labor of love with our adopters and a special event which we celebrate. We appreciate and applaud people like you who make the lifesaving decision to adopt a homeless animal!
- Volunteering time ensures that more of our community's animals find loving homes. You can volunteer to help care for the animals at the shelter or become a foster parent and take a needy animal into your home.
- Donating funds supports S.C.C.A.S. programs that benefit both the animals and people of Santa Cruz County. Our main programs are the following: **Animal Rescue**, which saves and protects abandoned and injured animals from the streets; **Planned Pethood**, our high-quality, low-cost spay/neuter program that reduces the number of unwanted pets; the **"Extra Mile" Fund**, which allows us to rehabilitate animals that come to us with special needs but have the potential to become healthy and adoptable; and **Humane Education** that is promoting responsible pet ownership and changing the way the community values animals.

There is even more we want to do and with your help we can. Please visit our website at www.scanimalshelter.org for more information on our lifesaving programs and services and how to get involved. By helping us, you become our partner in saving lives.

We hope you have many years of joy with your new family member. Please share your experience with friends and family and potential adopters or the "animal people" in your lives. Encourage them to visit the shelter and consider adding a new member to their family.

We hope this packet of information will support you as you bring your new companion into your home. Thank you again for opening your heart and door to a homeless animal.

Sincerely,

Melanie Sobel
General Manager, Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter

HEALTH CARE INFORMATION

Records

At the time of adoption you will receive a copy of your dog's vaccination records along with a free wellness exam offered by many of our local veterinarians, (to be used in the first week). Every adoptable dog is given a comprehensive behavior evaluation for social behavior and will be spayed or neutered before leaving the shelter. Dogs 6 months of age and older are required to be spayed or neutered according to Santa Cruz County law. **See the link for ordinance information.** www.scanimalshelter.org/information It is important for you to make an appointment to see a veterinarian *within the first three days* for a health exam and any follow-up vaccinations. Ask your veterinarian if they participate in the free wellness exam program when making the appointment.

Vaccines

We give vaccines that are age appropriate for the dog during their stay with us. Puppies usually get a series that may need to be continued after adoption with your veterinarian.

Rabies: All dogs over the age of 4 months receive a rabies vaccine. Dogs under a year should have a booster when they are a year old. All dogs need to be current on their rabies vaccine under California law.

DA2PP: Protects against Distemper, Adenovirus-2, Parainfluenza and Parvovirus. Puppies should receive a complete series. Check with your veterinarian.

Bordatella: (for a dog over 16 weeks) Protects against kennel cough. Check with your veterinarian.

Nemex: Pyrantel is a roundworm dewormer that is given starting at 2 weeks every 2 weeks until they are 4 months old. Check with your veterinarian.

Flea Protection

Dogs are examined for flea infestations and treatment is applied as necessary. There are a number of flea control medications. We sell Advantage brand. Check with your veterinarian for the one that will be best for your dog and situation. It is important to control fleas. Flea infestations are considered a health risk.

Heartworm

We do not test for heartworm. Talk with your veterinarian about testing and the different medications available to prevent heartworm. Heartworm is a very serious health issue and does exist in our area.

Grooming

Good grooming is important to the health of your dog. Dogs with different types of fur or hair have different grooming needs. When spending time sitting with your dog on a daily basis check her coat and skin condition. By doing this you will become aware of any problems before they get out of control. Also this teaches your dog how to be handled calmly and helps her to bond more quickly with you. When you first start handling your dog you will want to have tasty treats available to distract and reward calm behavior. Go slowly. If you have a wiggly dog, start with a few moments and work up to longer periods. It may help to have another person hold and distract her for her first few groomings. During this time check out your dog's nails, teeth and ears for any discharge or bad smell. If there are any questions regarding your dog's teeth or ears you should talk to your veterinarian. Keeping your dogs nails trimmed is important. It is easy to have this done at a dog groomer or ask your veterinarian to teach you how to do nail trimming safely.

Regular Exams

Your dog should visit a veterinarian once a year for a routine exam and yearly vaccinations. Senior dogs may need additional procedures, such as dental cleanings and blood work.

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THE FIRST 24 HOURS

Arriving Home

When you first arrive home take your new dog out to her “potty spot” on leash to give her a chance to relieve herself. Once she goes give her a treat and praise her with a “good dog” in a happy voice. You can put relieving herself on command by saying a word like “potty” or “pee” when she is going, then giving her a treat/food reward.

Bring her inside with her leash on and give her a tour of the house. Show her all the important places, her food and water bowls, her bed and the toy basket. Pick up anything you don't want your new dog to have access to. We don't always know if your dog has been living in a home or the backyard. So don't assume she knows the rules of “this is mine that is yours”.

Settling Down

Remember to go slowly and be patient. We don't always know what kind of situations a dog has experienced so there is a good chance she may be feeling anxious and confused and a bit overwhelmed. Keep things quiet and limit the introductions. Watch for signs of stress such as: wide eyes, avoiding contact with you or others, and stiff body language.

House Rules

As a household, decide on what the “house rules” should be and get agreement from everyone that they will stick to them. If even one person in the house doesn't follow the rules the dog will be confused and it will be much harder to establish good household etiquette. Don't fall into the trap of allowing behaviors you don't want later on because “the poor dog has been through so much”. **The behavior you allow is the behavior you will live with.** Dogs thrive on structure. They want to know the rules so they can get those treats and praise. Teaching behaviors like **sit**, **down** and **come** builds confidence, establishes you as the leader and helps your dog bond with you faster because she can do things that make good things happen. **Go to the shelter website (www.scanimalshelter.org) under resources for more information on positive dog training.**

Housetraining

Always assume your new dog is not housetrained. We recommend feeding your dog two meals a day. This helps to know when she will need to relieve herself. Start training by taking your dog out every one to two hours as you come to understand their limitations. When taking them out have a phrase that lets them know what is going to happen like “lets go out” or “outside” in a happy voice. When outside use a word like “pee” or “potty” as they are eliminating. Once she is done praise her and give her a treat. Training dogs is all about repetition. The more you do the same sequence of events with the same words the faster your dog will get with the program. **Go to the shelter website (www.scanimalshelter.org) under resources for more information on house training.**

Dinner

Dogs tend to not have much of an appetite the first day or so. This is usually due to stress rather than picky eating habits. When feeding leave the food down for 10 to 15 minutes. If it is not eaten remove it until the next meal. If she has left some behind reduce the portion by that amount. **Read the handout 'New Dog Basics' for more feeding information.**

Bedtime

Before bed, give your dog one last chance to relieve herself. Deciding where your dog will sleep depends on a number of things: if she a puppy, if she housetrained, if she's an older settled dog, if she's a young untrained

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dog. Puppies and dogs that need to have their movements managed will need to be confined in order to prevent potty accidents and possible destruction of property. Ideally, Crate Training would be best. **Read the handout "Confinement Strategies and Crate Training"**. Young puppies usually accept a crate easily but if your dog seems wary of going into a crate, don't force it. Another option would be to confine your dog to a safe room or an area using a puppy gate or an exercise pen. When your dog barks or cries use a calm voice to reassure her "you're fine" "its okay". If that doesn't work let her work it out until she calms herself. Never let her out of a crate or area when she is barking, instead wait for a pause so the barking doesn't get reinforced. If she seems hysterical you may need to move her next to the bed or sit with her until she calms. You may need to get out the sleeping bag and curl up next to her for a night. If your dog is three months or younger plan to take her out during the night for a potty break. Make it quick then back to bed. We don't want to start a regular habit of a play date at 4 in the morning!

First Morning

First thing in the morning put on your dog's leash and take her out for a potty break. If you want your dog to use one area to relieve herself always take her there. Having her on leash in the beginning is helpful. It is very important to stay with your dog when she is going potty so you are sure she has emptied herself and you can reward her. Keep the other house members up to date on the action so everyone is aware when she will need to go out next. It's helpful to keep a chart when more than one person is involved. In the first few days or weeks it will be important to manage her movements so there are no accidents or destruction. When you are busy showering, dressing, or getting breakfast, use her leash as a tether and either tie it to a solid object she can't destroy or put her in her crate, x-pen, or safe area. If you want to make sure she won't chew her leash you can make a tether with a solid rope and leash hardware.

If you have to leave your dog make time to exercise her with a walk, jog or game of fetch before you go. A tired dog is a good dog. Mature dogs that are comfortable in a crate should be left not more than 5 hours without a break. They can be left longer in a confined area. Puppies should be left no more than 2 hours. Bored dogs are unhappy, frustrated and can become destructive dogs. Educate yourself about project toys such as Kongs, stuffed sterile bones, and other fun interactive toys that will keep your new dog busy while you are gone.

Returning Home

When arriving home don't go right to your dog and let her out of her crate or area. Take a few moments to set your keys down, have a drink of water and check the mail. It helps to even go by the area she is in and ignore her before going back to let her out. By doing this we don't set our dog up for a hyperactive greeting every time she hears the door open. Approach her calmly and in a quiet voice. Avoid the high-pitched voice and "poor dog" talk. This will establish calm, quiet greetings. Once you do this take her outside to the area you would like her to relieve herself right away praising her and giving a treat when she does so. If you are only home for a short break give your dog a run around the yard or a walk and then some quiet attention. Getting your dog all worked up and putting her back in confinement will only frustrate her.

If you have questions or are having behavior problems please give us a call at 454-7211.

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NEW DOG BASICS

COMMITTMENT

Adopting a dog or puppy is a long-term commitment. Dogs have an average lifespan of 10-12 years, but some dogs live up to 15 years or more. When you take a dog into your home you are committing to being a responsible dog guardian for the duration of your dog's life.

This includes the following:

- Providing good food, clean water, medical care in a timely manner, a safe comfortable environment, appropriate exercise and loving companionship.
- Keeping your dog safe. This includes complying with local and state ordinances, providing current contact information both in the form of a collar with an ID tag and a microchip.
- Ensure she is a good canine citizen. This means learning how to train and socialize your dog with positive humane methods and addressing behavior problems as they come up.

SUPPLIES

Here is a list of supplies you will need.

- Good quality dog food. (corn and wheat may cause allergies)
- Bowls for food and water. (metal bowls are easier to keep clean)
- Collar, leash and ID tags. We don't recommend extension leashes.
- Training tools for loose leash walking (6 ft. leash, head halter or front clip harness).
- A variety of good quality treats for rewarding and training
- Crate, exercise pen or puppy gates.
- Bed or blankets that are washable.
- Safe and durable toys (chew toys, safe bones, mentally stimulating toys such as Kongs, sterile bones, food puzzles and play toys).

FEEDING AND NUTRITION

You are being sent home with a starter bag of food your dog or puppy has been eating at our shelter. When choosing a food for your dog, buy one that is a good quality. Some ingredients such as corn and wheat may cause allergies. Transition your dog gradually from one food to the next. Start with a ratio of 3/4 of the old to 1/4 of the new and increase the new food over a period of a week to ten days. This should avoid gastrointestinal upset.

The amount you feed your dog will depend on her size, age and activity level. Commercial dog food bags have charts with suggested amounts. These can tend to be a bit high. We suggest you feed your dog two meals a day or three or four depending on a puppy's age. Feed only as much as your dog will eat at one meal. After 10 to 15 minutes pick up the remaining food and adjust the amount down to the amount of food that gets eaten.

We don't suggest free feeding. When housetraining a new dog or puppy, it is critical to be able to predict when they need to relieve themselves and by having your dog on a feeding schedule it will make house training faster and easier. Also knowing if your dog is not eating all her meal can be an indication of a health problem. And lastly, in training with positive methods most of the time we use food treats to motivate a dog to learn. If food is available at all times they may not be so interested in the food rewards.

EXERCISE AND MENTAL STIMULATION

Dogs that are well exercised and tired are less likely to start problem behaviors and are much easier to train. Not enough exercise and mental stimulation can contribute to things like destructiveness, hyperactivity,

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attention-seeking, and nuisance barking. Regular walks and play sessions are important to keep your dog happy, but more importantly it starts the bonding process with you and your new dog. The more one-on-one time you and others can give your dog, the faster she will begin to settle in and feel at home with her new family. Mental exercise helps to wind a dog down. Give your dog interactive toys such as Kongs or sterile bones stuffed with peanut butter (freezing makes the projects last longer) and puzzle toys. Teaching your dog the basic commands for sit and come allows you to start interacting with her through positive training methods. This will help to establish you as the leader and start teaching her the rules of the house. **Read “Play Together Stay Together” by Patricia McConnell www.patriciamcconnell.com .**

SOCIALIZATION

It is important to expose your new dog or puppy to the sights, sounds, people and animals she will be expected to interact with in her new life. After your dog has had a chance to settle in and feel secure and comfortable with her new family and home environment, take her out and slowly expose her to new experiences. Plan ahead and be aware of the type of situations and people your dog can tolerate in the beginning. This will ensure she has positive experiences to build on. Have lots of high value treats (the ones she would do backflips for) when new things are happening. Never force a dog to interact with any person or thing they seem apprehensive towards. Watch your dog’s body language. **See the handout on body language.** She will tell you if she is comfortable or concerned with each situation and interaction. Look for and respect the signals your dog is giving.

Plan for each situation that you want your dog to feel comfortable with such as going to the veterinarian or riding in the car. Talk to your veterinary clinic and set up times that you can bring your new dog in to meet the staff. Bring lots of treats and have the staff feed her if she is willing. If she seems uncomfortable, have them not **look at, talk to or touch** her. They can just throw treats in her direction. Then, sit quietly and let her take in the people and animals with no pressure. Keep it short, then leave. Do this a number of times until she seems happy and relaxed. By creating a positive experience, vet visits will be easy and comfortable for your dog and you.

Puppies that have not completed all of their vaccinations should not be taken to public places and put on the ground where other dogs have been. This increases the risk for transmission of a serious disease. This does not mean you need to keep your puppy at home. Puppies can go to a private home or yard with vaccinated dogs to play and socialize. Puppies can also go for rides in the car and experience the sights and sounds of their new world. For small puppies you can carry them to keep them safe. You can also use puppy pee-pads from the pet store out in the world so they can go without the risk of exposure.

RETURNS

It is our hope that your new dog will remain in your home for the rest of her life, and that any behavior issues will be worked through to the best of your ability. We are always available to help you with any questions and concerns you may have. If you are ever unable to provide a home for your dog the Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter will always be there as your safety net and accept your dog back into our program.



FROM SHELTER DOG TO FAMILY DOG

The transition from the shelter environment to family member can be a very stressful time for a dog. Realistic expectations of how long it will take and how difficult it may be for her to settle in will help both of you. The keys to success are to be patient and to go slowly.

It may take time for your new dog to feel completely comfortable in her new surroundings. When settling into a new situation, dogs look to see who controls the good stuff (e.g., food, attention, toys,) and how to stay safe. Your job is to set clear boundaries in a loving way, to guide your dog over the hurdles, to establish trust, and to nurture a bond with your family. Watch for signs that indicate your dog may be happy and relaxed, or anxious and fearful.

Take your cues from your dog. Do not expect her to behave in a certain way. Many dogs at the shelter were strays, so the shelter can provide only limited, if any, information about their previous experiences. If she growls at a member of your household, don't be offended and don't scold. **Go to www.fearfuldog.com resources.** Understand that she doesn't know this person and she has no reason to trust them. She may have good historical reasons to fear them. It is important to avoid exposing your new dog to stressful, difficult, or unpredictable situations. As you get to know your dog's body language, you will understand more about which situations your dog can tolerate and which she finds worrisome.

Here are a few positive steps you can take to help with a smooth transition:

- Go slowly with introductions; let her take her time to warm up to people and animals.
- Give her a tour of her new home. Show her where her bed, bowls and elimination area is.
- Teach your family and friends not to focus their attention on her if she shows shyness or fear.
- Leave her leash on in the house for a few days. It is safer to pick up a leash rather than to grab the collar of a frightened dog.
- Maintain a calm environment; it is not the time for roughhousing, or parties.

Go slowly. Arrange to be with your dog as much as you can during this critical period, so that you can provide calm, reassuring companionship and training. When you do leave her alone, place her in a safe, confined area with enjoyable distractions (e.g., chew toys and food-project toys), and start with very short periods-minutes not hours-of separation. **Read the handout on 'Confinement Strategies and Crate Training'**. Crate training is often helpful if you introduce her to it in the correct way. Many dogs in transition are subject to some level of **separation anxiety**. By going slowly and having a plan you can support her through her anxiety, rather than making the problem worse. Help her to build confidence. **Read Patrica McConnell's booklet "I'll Be Home Soon" on separation anxiety.** www.patriciamcconnell.com

Avoid these situations in the first few days and weeks:

- Introducing her to all your friends and their dogs.
- Taking her to the beach.
- Taking her to the dog park (**if ever**); interactions with strange dogs can be unpredictable in such a high-energy situation and can result in permanent trauma. **See the handout on Dog Parks on website.**
- Leaving her alone in the backyard; new open spaces can be overwhelming. This can lead to behavior problems like nuisance barking and digging, and it leaves her vulnerable

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Let your dog choose when and to what degree she wishes to approach people. Explain to people that “Bonnie is new and in training. Help us to reassure her.” “Please **avoid eye contact with her** (direct eye contact can be scary) **wait until she is calm before talking to or touching her**, as this can excite her”. Giving your dog time to control herself establishes an expectation of how you want her to greet people. It helps to prevent jumping up and over-excited reactions during introductions. It is also very important that you stay calm yourself. If you know when people will be visiting plan ahead. When guests arrive, have your dog on a leash at your side, and distract her with a yummy treat until she sits calmly. If she continues to bounce around, have the person back away. Then slowly try again. Do this over and over until she calms down. This method gives a clear signal. **She gets no attention or contact until she sits calmly**. This is not punishing her it is giving clear boundaries in a positive way. Once she has bonded and settled in (this may take weeks for some dogs) sign up for a basic class with a positive trainer. Attending a series of classes will help you to continue to create the partnership of a lifetime. Positive training methods ensure that working with you dog will be fun and rewarding.

Behaviors to be wary of:

- **Growling** at other people when being held or sitting on a lap. This is a form of resource guarding. When this happens immediately and calmly put the dog down, off the couch or bed or move away without saying anything. This tells her that this behavior has consequences. When doing this do not get mad or use harsh words or tone of voice. Right away a new dog can form a strong attachment to one person in their new home. It is important that everyone in the family share the feeding, walking and grooming duties so the dog will have a good association and bond with each person. **See the handout on on Resource Guarding on the website. www.scanimalshelter.org**
- **Demand barking** is when a dog has figured out that barking gets them attention. This can happen when you leave her alone in her safe area. Stay calm and quiet. Only approach her when she is quiet. Never let her out when she is barking; this will only tell her that barking gets her what she wants. Which could be the beginning of a barking habit. Once she stops barking, go to her and give her a treat and a “good girl”, then leave again. Repeat this over and over until she figures out barking doesn’t get her what she wants. **Only take her out when she is quiet.**
- **Jumping up** on people is not a good behavior to encourage and can be particularly bad if it involves an elderly person or small child. Dogs jump up to get attention. If we substitute a better behavior that gets them attention and a food reward we can eliminate the jumping up. Teach your dog to sit and reward with a treat. If you ask your dog to sit each time she approaches a person and it results in a reward, she will soon learn that sitting is more valuable than jumping. To teach a solid sit, ask her to sit in different places many times throughout the day and always reward with a treat to be successful.
- **Snapping** at people. Hopefully this is something you will not experience, but it is important to know that most aggression comes from fear. Remain calm. Don’t get mad at the dog. If your dog starts to show this behavior call the shelter immediately so it can be addressed in a positive way.

For more complete information to help you through this exciting but stressful time, **read Patricia McConnell’s booklet, “Love Has No Age Limit”** about dog adoption. Go to Patricia McConnell’s website: www.patriciamcconnell.com . For information on shy and fearful dogs go to www.fearfuldog.com .

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CONFINEMENT STRATEGIES AND CRATE TRAINING

Managing your dog's movements for the first few days or weeks can be a challenge. Taking the time to crate train your dog is by far the best tool, but it is helpful to have other ways to control her movements that are supportive and low stress for everyone.

Confinement Alternatives

Exercise Pens or X-Pens and Puppy Gates

Exercise pens or X-pens are modular folding metal pens, essentially a playpen for dogs or puppies. They come in a variety of heights, be sure and allow for your puppy's growth. You can also use an X-pen or puppy gate to block off rooms or areas. Depending on the space, you can fold them out to full size or into a size your space requires. Help your dog to feel comfortable by letting her explore it on her own. Make it interesting by throwing some food treats into the pen for her to find. Be aware some dogs are climbers and will take any opportunity to join the people party. Remember to always create a positive association with her confinement area, by leaving her with a chew toy or puzzle games. If your dog does start to whine or bark see the section below on "whining".

Tether and Tie-Down Training

A **tether** is a leash or a strong rope with leash hardware at one end. It should be no more than 4 feet long. Keeping your dog on a leash or tether the first days or weeks gives you control over your dog's behavior as she is learning the house rules. You will be able to pick it up or step on the leash at any time you need to stop unwanted behaviors. It's safer to pick up a leash rather than chasing an anxious or fearful dog. This is a much more positive way of dealing with out of control situations. You do need to always be aware that your dog could get stuck, so always keep her close. A **tie-down** is when you tie your tether or leash to a secure object such as a heavy piece of furniture, your computer chair while you are in it or install a eye bolt into the wall. Never leave your dog unattended on a tie-down.

Crate Training

The most important thing we can do for our dogs is give them the "life skills" that make them a balanced, happy dog. With life skills they can go with us on our travels and participate in our lives without the negative behaviors that prevent us from enjoying each other's company. Crate training is one of these skills. Crate training your dog may take some time, planning and effort but it is well worth it. When used properly, a crate will confine your dog to a safe, secure place when you are running errands, showering, cooking, or distracted by a child. When your dog enjoys being in her crate, you can relax and know she is not pottying in the house, chewing your favorite pair of shoes, tearing up the yard or creating her own destruction project to keep busy. A crate is a valuable tool to use during the transitional period when your puppy is going through the unruly puppy stages and getting accustomed to the rules of the house. It is also a great tool to use when traveling (*Crates are the best way to transport dogs in cars*) or to keep her safe and quiet during activities like parties and noisy play-dates with the neighborhood kids. And it's important to remember that in emergency situations having a dog that can be crated can be a lifesaver.

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Choosing a Crate

A crate for an adult dog should be large enough for her to comfortably stand up, turn around and lay down. The two kinds of crates to look for are either hard plastic flight kennels or wire. There are lighter weight, soft fabric crates that should only be used with dogs that are already completely comfortable and enjoy crate time. For puppies it is important to have an idea of how large the pup will get. Since housetraining is an important part of using a crate it shouldn't be so large that a puppy can feel free to potty at one end and sleep at the other. This bad habit is hard to train away! For puppies, buy a crate for their adult size that comes with a movable divider. It is important you are able to adjust the area the puppy has access to as she grows. Some dogs feel more comfortable in crates they can see through. You can always cover the crate to give it a cozier feeling.

How to Crate Train

Before getting started here are a number of things to always keep in mind.

A crate isn't a magical solution. If not used correctly, a dog can feel trapped and frustrated.

Never use the crate as a punishment. Your dog will come to fear it and refuse to enter it. That doesn't mean it is not a place for a time-out.

Don't leave your dog in the crate too long. A dog that's crated day and night can become depressed or anxious.

Crate training can take days or weeks, depending on your dog's age, temperament and past experiences. **Two important things to think of; the crate should always be associated with something pleasant and training should be a series of small steps. Don't go too fast.**

Step 1: Introducing your dog to the crate

Take the door off or tie it open so your dog doesn't become frightened by the swinging door bumping her. Put the crate in an area of the house like the family room where the family spends a lot of time. Put a soft blanket or towel in the crate to make it cozy and inviting. Use bedding that could possibly be soiled or chewed on. Let your dog explore the open crate at her leisure. Some dogs will be naturally curious and go in and lie down. If your dog isn't one of them, help her to explore the crate by teaching her it's a good thing. Show her the crate while talking to her in a happy voice. Encourage her to go in by throwing really good treats into the front of the crate to make it inviting. If your dog doesn't like treats try throwing a favorite toy or ball in. **Do not ever force her to go in.** Keep throwing treats and toys in until she is comfortable going in on her own. This step may take several days. Each dog has its own timeline. Be patient and go slowly.

Step 2: Feed your dog in the crate

You can try feeding your dog in her crate. If she is reluctant, start by feeding her next to the crate then move the bowl just inside the door and gradually farther back as she seems more comfortable. Once your dog is standing in the crate to eat her meals, you can close the door while she's eating with you there. Go slowly. Once she is okay with the door shut, gradually lengthen the time. If she whines to be let out it may be too long a period for now. Go back to leaving her in for a shorter period of time. If she does whine, cry or bark, **DO NOT** let her out until she is quiet for a few moments. If you give in then your dog quickly learns making noise gets me attention and out. You can also take a moment and try calming her with a soothing voice.

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Step 3: Lengthen the crating periods

After your dog is eating her regular meals in the crate with no sign of fear or anxiety, you can confine her for short periods of time while you are home. Call her to the crate and give her a treat. Tell her to “go in your house” or a phrase that works for you. When she goes in immediately give treats and praise and close the door but don’t latch it. Sit next to the crate or close enough so she can see you. Then try latching the door. Next move on to closing the door for 5 to 10 minutes. Go over and give her a treat through the wire. Once she feels comfortable with this start leaving the room for a couple of minutes. Come back in the room keeping busy reading or just ignoring her. Then a few minutes later quietly go over and let her out not making it a big deal. Use a calm voice when talking to her. It helps to not make eye contact. Repeat this process several times a day randomly, gradually increasing the length of time she is in the crate and the length of time you are out of sight. You can also give her a frozen food-stuffed Kong or sterile bone when she goes into her crate. Licking and chewing can be soothing. If she doesn’t touch the treat when she normally would, it shows anxiety and the process may take longer.

OTHER SITUATIONS

Crating your Dog When you Leave

Once your dog is comfortable being left in the crate for 30 minutes without becoming distressed you can start leaving the house for short periods. This may mean just out in the yard or sorting the recycling. Be aware of your “getting ready to leave” routine, putting on your coat, putting on shoes or picking up your keys, etc. Once you know what this is, *plan ahead* and 15 minutes before leaving get things ready and placed by the door. This will avoid a direct association with these behaviors and leaving which could trigger anxiety. Then put your dog in her crate with a food project. Spend the rest of the time moving about the house, sitting and reading near her or in the next room. Then when she is calm quietly slip out without saying anything. It is very important to make both departures and arrivals low key. Don’t talk to her or look at her for the first few minutes when you come back. You can even walk through the room and drop treats into the crate without saying anything. After about 5 minutes when your dog is relaxed and quiet, open the door and let her out without a fuss. Now is a good time to let her out to go potty. *Continue to crate your dog for short periods from time when you are home so she doesn’t associate crating with your leaving.* To build on the positive association of the crate, randomly toss treats and toys into the crate all day long for her to find. This will encourage her to go exploring and know that the crate is a good place.

Crating your Dog at Night

In the beginning it may be a good idea to put the crate in your bedroom or a nearby hallway, especially if your new dog is a puppy. Puppies usually need a potty break during the night, and you will want to hear your puppy ask to go out. Older dogs should be kept near by so they don’t associate the crate with isolation. Once your dog is sleeping comfortably through the night you can try moving the crate to a different location, but having your dog close at night in the beginning will help to build the bond between you and your dog.



Whining

If your dog whines, cries or barks while in the crate at night, it may be difficult to decide whether she's demanding to be let out or she needs to go out to potty. If you've followed the training procedures explained above, then your dog has not been rewarded for whining, crying or barking. If this is the case, try ignoring her. If your dog is testing you, she will probably stop in a couple of minutes. If the noise continues after a few minutes, use the phrase she associates with going outside to eliminate. "Do you want to go out?" If she responds with excitement take her outside to potty. Remember this is a trip with a purpose, if she goes right outside and pottys bring her right back in. No playing around or midnight snacks. The best response to demanding noise is to ignore it until it stops. You can try reassuring her in a calm voice but only once or twice at the most. If the problem becomes unmanageable you may have to start the training process over or contact a trainer.

Separation Anxiety

Attempting to use the crate as a remedy for separation anxiety won't solve the problem. A crate may prevent your dog from being destructive, but she may injure herself in an attempt to escape. If your dog is showing signs of severe destructive anxiety consult a dog trainer with experience in solving separation anxiety. For more information **read Patricia McConnell's booklet "I'll Be Home Soon"** www.patriciamcconnell.com .

These are all strategies and management tools to help you through the transition period with your new dog. Once you have practiced them they are always available.





Slight Cowering



Major Cowering



More Subtle Signs of Fear & Anxiety



Licking Lips
when no food nearby



Panting
when not hot or thirsty



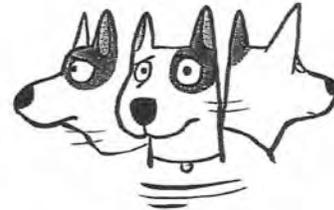
Brow Furrowed, Ears to Side



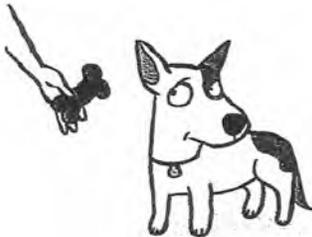
Moving in Slow Motion
walking slow on floor



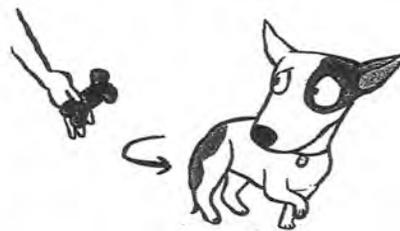
Acting Sleepy or Yawning
when they shouldn't be tired



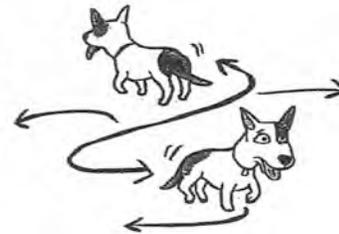
Hypervigilant
looking in many directions



Suddenly Won't Eat
but was hungry earlier



Moving Away



Pacing

POSITIVE DOG TRAINING RESOURCE GUIDE

- ❖ Kindred Spirit – Dog training with Heart
Lori Katz, (831) 685-3647
Classes, behavior assessments and one on one coaching.
www.DogTrainNow.com
- ❖ Click'Em Dog Training
Karen Phillippi, (831) 763-3869
Classes, behavior assessments and one on one coaching.
www.clickemdogtraining.com
- ❖ Canine Spirt
 - Barbara Cartwright, (408) 592-7272
 - Basic training, behavior assesments, one on one coaching, and board and train.
www.caninespirit.net
- ❖ Living with Dogs Dog Training
Sandi Pensinger, (831) 476-9065
A variety of classes and behavior assessments.
www.livingwithdogs.us
- ❖ Bingo Dog Training
Cynthia Edgerly, (831) 768-9308 or (408) 335-8745
A variety of classes, and in home board and train.
www.bingodogtraining.com
- ❖ Our Pack, Inc.
Marthina McClay, (408) 460-4244
Marthina works with Our Pack an advocacy group for Pit Bulls, Pitty mixes and chihuahuas. Our Pack has Pit Bull specific classes.
www.ourpack.org
- ❖ PetSmart Dog Training
PetSmart dog training is held at the PetSmart in Santa Cruz on River Street. They offer basic obedience classes. (831) 429-2780

Please take the time to look at the trainers' websites to get a feel for the right match for you and your dog. And you go to the shelter's website for more information on positive training and behavior help.

Information provided by the Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter: www.scanimalshelter.org

