



HUMANE SOCIETY OF BROWARD COUNTY

Puppy Beginner Class

Handout #2

House Training

House training your pet may be one of the most important things that he learns. Starting off on the right foot is very important, decide what your goals are going to be with house training from the very first day and work towards that goal together. If given a choice your puppy may make mistakes and have accidents and this is a pitfall we want to avoid. If allowed to make mistakes routinely your pet will soon develop a habit and training will be frustrating and confusing for him. The goal is usually simple...you want your pet to readily and consistently eliminate outside and in order for you and your puppy to be successful you must never forget to supervise him at all times. The use of baby gates and a crate is a great way to limit your pet's freedom in the house when you are unable to watch him. Close doors to rooms that are off limits so your puppy cannot wander in and relieve himself. Managing your environment is a big part of a good house training plan.

Please see the behavior modification handout for complete house training instructions or you can visit our web site at www.humanebroward.com.

Crate Training

A wire collapsible crate or plastic airline kennel will work well. Make sure the crate is big enough for the puppy to stand up, turn around and stretch out. If you have a large breed puppy that needs to grow into his crate you can use dividers or a milk crate to limit the extra space. If your puppy has too much room he may get into the habit of eliminating at one end of his crate and sleeping at the other. Place the crate in an area where the family spends most of its time such as the kitchen or family room. Puppies are social animals and want to be with you. Do not isolate them in a separate room alone. Make sure the crate is a positive fun place for your puppy. Putting toys or treats in the crate will help your pet enjoy the experience and be less stressful for him.

- The crate is an effective house training tool because of the dog's natural instinct to not soil his sleeping area.
- The crate can prevent destructive behavior such as chewing.
- The crate can be moved from room to room and used when traveling.
- Use the "Goldilocks" rule when selecting a crate size; not too big, not too small, but just right!
- A central location where the family spends most of the time is a good place for the crate. If you isolate your puppy he may start the habit of barking and crying in his crate.
- Introduce your puppy to the crate slowly and be patient.
- The crate should never be used as punishment.
- Children should not be allowed to play in the crate or annoy the puppy when he is in it.
- Your puppy's crate is his safe den, a place to get away if he chooses.

Please see the behavior modification handout for complete crate training instructions or you can visit our web site at www.humanebroward.com .