



## CRATE TRAINING TIPS

While in our care, we introduce the puppies to a basic wire crate. This should make crate training easier on you as a new pet parent as the crate isn't as much of a "foreign object" to your puppy. Crate Training your goldendoodle is the best thing to do for their safety and comfort. Many new pet owners think that putting the puppy in a crate is similar to putting them in puppy jail. In reality, after the puppy gets used to his or her crate, it's a source of comfort and privacy that feels like a den for them. Crate training your puppy can also be full of advantages for you as a pet owner, including peace of mind, safety for your pet, and easier travel. So, how do we start crate training? We will answer some of the questions you may have below.

### **1.) What kind of crate is best?**

We like the collapsible wire mesh crates the best. They are totally ventilated and easily moved from place to place, as well as having a removable plastic tray. These also help the puppy to be able to see everything going on in the room around him. Other crates will work as well, but we haven't found them to be as good for puppies in large part because they cannot see as easily through some others. Puppies' curious personalities make them want to see everything that's happening in the brand new world around them!

### **2.) What size should my crate be?**

We recommend purchasing two crates, one that is smaller for puppyhood, and a larger crate with dividers that the puppy will be able to grow in to. At any time, the puppy should be able to stand up fully, stretch, lay down, and turn around in the crate. Do not give the puppy too much space or it WILL go to the corner to potty. No puppy wants to sleep where he also uses the bathroom. Having a small crate is useful for the puppy because you can move it with you easily to any room so the puppy can see what is going on in the room around them. If this is not available, we recommend just using the larger crate with the divider in the proper position to give the recommended amount of space.

### **3.) Where should I put the crate?**

It's difficult to confine a puppy to their crate without making them feel banished or isolated. If possible, place the crate in a high-traffic area where there are people often. A kitchen or family room may be a good idea. Some dogs prefer to have the back side of the crate draped with a towel or sheet to give an even greater "den" effect.

### **4.) How should I use the crate?**

After you've placed the crate in a high-traffic area, use an old towel for bedding or a freshly worn, unlaundered article of your clothing that you may not mind the puppy getting a hold of. DO NOT put a newspaper under the towel as it may encourage elimination as we start our puppies potty training on newspaper. If you have small children, make sure that they're aware that the crate is the puppy's special house and they should not be allowed to use it as a playhouse. However, it is a good idea to put your hands inside the the crate often to ensure that the puppy does not become protective of his space in the crate.

### **5.) Introducing the puppy to the crate**

Never force the puppy into the crate. The experience of entering into the crate should always be pleasurable for the puppy. We recommend buying two medium sized Kong toys an putting peanut butter on the inside rim to lead the puppy into the crate. If you have two Kongs, you can have one ready to go each time you take the puppy out of the crate to potty or play.

### **5.) Establish a routine**

When you first introduce the puppy to the crate, make it a pleasant experience for them! Lure them in with their favorite toy or a Kong toy with a bit of peanut butter inside to distract them. Expect the puppy to cry louder than you'd ever thought possible for such a cute little fur ball! Start establishing his 'crate time' at 1-2 hour intervals (works well with their self-chosen 'nap times') and gradually extend the amount of time the puppy stays in the crate. They should spend more time in the crate than out right now, even though it is difficult because the puppy is so cute! At night, you may want to put the crate in a small area (like a bathroom or a room partitioned off with an ex-pen) and leave the door open to a small area equipped with newspapers so that the puppy can potty when needed. This will make it easier for you as an owner to leave the puppy to cry if you know they are not uncomfortable and need to go outside. After your puppy gets used to it's new life, it will have greater bowel control and will be able to be left in the crate all night.

### **6.) BE CONSISTENT!**

The best, though most difficult rule to follow when crate training your puppy is NO HUMAN EMOTION! The puppy will most likely cry, and cry more loudly than anything you would have ever imagined they could do. You have to remember to hang tough, and know that after a few days of religious crating, the puppy will learn to like it's crate and feel comfortable in it.

## **7.) Use, don't abuse!**

The use of a crate is not recommended for your goldendoodle if left alone all day. These are active dogs that need exercise and attention! However, we know sometimes the dog must be left alone. Before crating for a longer period of time, make sure to exercise the dog well! Also, make sure to attach a clip-on water dish for their comfort and safety. Ideally, someone should come to let the puppy out mid-day. If you must leave the puppy alone and they are not yet potty trained, make sure to add extra space for elimination needs, ideally an extra space that goes out into an ex-pen.

## **8.) Make it easier on yourself!**

Who wouldn't want to make it easier on themselves? Crate training a puppy can be frustrating, so follow these other tips to make it easier on you.

- Crate training is easier when the puppy can see you! The reason we recommend a smaller crate is so that you can easily transport your puppy with you from room to room
- Putting the crate up on a table next to your bed where the puppy can see you at night will make nights easier
  - Talk softly to your puppy, it will make them quiet more quickly
- When the puppy starts to stir, it likely has to go potty, so pick them up and carry them to their designated “potty spot”. This will happen about every 2 hours for the first few days.
- NEVER PUT THE PUPPY IN THE CRATE WITH A COLLAR ON!! We have heard of too many cases where pieces of a collar get stuck in the crate and the puppy is injured or dies.