

# A Guide For Raising Your Puppy

## How to Use a MidWest Pet Home

### Step 1: Acquaint Your Puppy With His New Home

Simply start from early puppyhood and have your puppy sleep and rest in his home. Almost without trying he will train himself to seek security and comfort inside his little "dog room." Encourage your puppy to go into his home on his own. If necessary, toss a little treat in the home. **DON'T FORCE HIM!** He may quickly back out or be shy, but that's normal. Just take it slowly. At first, don't close the door on him, let him go in and out on his own.



Once he is happy and unafraid of his new home, simply restrain him at the door with your hand. Make him stay in the home for a few minutes, then gradually increase the time and be sure to praise him!

Once he is comfortable with this — probably a few hours or days of short training sessions — simply restrain him at the door with the door, again praising him lavishly. Soon he will be secure in his home with the door closed. Slowly you can get further and further away from him, always praising his accepting behavior. Eventually, the pup will sit quietly and sleep in his home with the door closed.



### Step 2: Direct His Elimination

Understand that little puppies need to "go" about every 2-4 hours. On a schedule, such as after feeding, before bedtime, and first thing in morning, let your puppy out, teach him the route to the door, praise him at the door, and take him out to the part of the yard you want him to use. Very quickly, you are teaching him an elimination schedule that will stay with him for the rest of his life.



As your puppy gets older (4-6 months) you can gradually leave him in his home for longer periods of time because he can "hold it" longer. Soon he can be in his home all day, if necessary, until someone arrives to let him out.

### Some of the DO's and DON'Ts of Crate Training

**DO...**get your pup used to his new home gradually. Plan on taking plenty of quality time with him the first few days to get him accustomed to his new surroundings.

**DO...**supervise your pup anytime he is free in your home. Supervision is what allows you to direct behavior. Chewing, elimination, barking, and all other behaviors are all dependent on your direction. If allowed to be unsupervised, he will begin to direct his own behavior and schedule.

**DO...**provide soft, washable bedding in the home so that it is comfortable and warm. Make the inside of the home as cozy as you can. Keep it clean and free of fleas.



**DON'T...**put "housebreaking pads" or newspaper in your pet's home. We are trying to take advantage of the pup's natural instinct NOT to go in his home.

**DON'T...**leave your very young pup in his home all day. At 6 weeks, a pup can hold his bladder about 4 hours, by 8 weeks—5 hours, by 12 weeks—6 hours and by 5-6 months a pup should be able to "hold it" for an 8 hour work day.

**DON'T...**let your new pup roam through your house unsupervised. Keep an eye on him so that when he sniffs and circles (an indication he is about to go) you can quickly and gently guide him to the door and outside.

**DON'T...**punish your pup by putting or forcing him into his home. Your pup's home should not be associated with punishment or anything negative.

For more information, contact MidWest:  
midwesthomes4pets.com or 800-428-8560

# Ask MidWest First!

If you have any questions about assembling or using your MidWest product or you discover you are missing any parts, don't take it back to the store...please contact us directly by any of these methods:

Phone: 800-428-8560  
Website: [midwesthomes4pets.com](http://midwesthomes4pets.com)  
E-mail: [info@midwesthomes4pets.com](mailto:info@midwesthomes4pets.com)  
Fax: 765-289-6524  
Mail: P.O. Box 1031  
Muncie, IN 47308



On our web page, for your convenience, you will find fully illustrated, printable instructions. You will also find additional product information and tips on training and using MidWest crates!

We're open Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 4 PM Eastern Standard Time.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION! PLEASE READ!

1. Be sure to remove the collars, tags, and leads from your pet before placing him in the home to prevent possible entanglement.
2. Please save your sales receipt as proof of purchase. If a claim against the warranty is made, the purchaser will be required to present the sales receipt or other proof of purchase prior to authorizing any return or replacement.
3. MidWest's main concern is your pet's well-being. If your pet has never been kept in an enclosure, specific training may be necessary for your pet's safety. A pet, not specifically trained to be restricted, may attempt to escape from this enclosure which could cause injury to your pet or damage to this product. MidWest will not accept liability or warrant any loss to improper use of this product by a pet that has not been properly trained.

See the opposite side of this sheet for basic crate training instructions. For additional information, contact MidWest, your veterinarian, or an animal care professional.

*For a Complete Listing of Products*  
**Crates • Pet Beds**  
**Travel Carriers • Ex Pens • Kennels ...**

*- Come Visit Our Website*

