



LIESSE ANIMAL CLINIC

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Dr. R. J. Langill ~ Serving the community since 1950

CRATE TRAINING

Pet crates are an excellent way to train your dog and provide it with its own sanctuary. There are numerous benefits to crate training your dog.

- Security for your dog
- Safety for your dog and young children
- Prevents costly damage
- Helps you train proper chewing and elimination
- Easy traveling
- Improved dog/owner relationship

Tips to Remember

- A crate should have enough room for the dog to stand and turn around.
- Because dogs are social animals, the ideal location for the crate is in a room full of activity
- For the crate to remain a positive retreat never use it for punishment. You can, however, use the crate to avoid potential problems (e.g. chewing, jumping). If you use social isolation, or "timeout", place the dog in a separate room instead of the crate.

Training Puppies

Introduce the puppy to the crate as early in the day as possible. Place a few treats, toys or food in the crate to motivate the puppy to enter voluntarily. The first confinement session should be after a period of play, exercise, and elimination (e.g., when the puppy is ready to take a nap). Place the puppy in its crate with a toy and a treat, and close the door. Leave the room but remain close enough to hear the puppy. Expect some disturbance at first. Never reward the pup by letting it out when it cries or whines. Ignore it until the crying stops, and then release it.

If crying does not subside on its own, a light scolding maybe useful. Avoid any excessive correction - it can cause fear and anxiety, which could aggravate the whining or cause elimination. When correcting, remain out-of-sight so that the puppy does not learn to associate the punishment with your presence.

A squirt from a water gun or a sharp noise (try a shaker can containing a few coins) can be used to interrupt barking.