



## ADELAIDE FRENCH BULLDOGS - MOSAC

### **CRATE TRAINING YOUR PUPPY**

There are many benefits to crate training, not only to help with housetraining but also for travel, helping pup feel secure as well as keeping your belongings safe. It is very important to make the crate a happy place for the pup. Make sure pup is calm and happy when introducing him to his crate to avoid a traumatic experience. Never leave pup locked up and alone if it is his first time inside. It will make an unpleasant experience and very difficult for you to try and get him to go inside it next time!

#### **Introducing pup to the crate**

It is best to place your pup's crate somewhere in the house where your family spends most of their time. Put his blanket with mum and siblings scent, in the crate and take off the crate door/ or secure it open. Let him take his time to explore and don't push or force him into it. Some pups will be naturally curious and start sleeping in the crate right away. If yours isn't one of them drop some biscuits or treats just inside the door, if he goes in and eats it, drop some further into the crate and then, finally, all the way inside the crate. Otherwise a favourite toy can also help but remember not to force them.

#### **Feeding pups meals in the crate**

Once pup has been introduced to his crate, you should begin feeding him his regular meals either in or near the crate. This will create a pleasant association with the crate.

- If pup is readily entering the crate, place his food dish all the way at the back of the crate.
- If he is still scared to enter, put the dish only as far inside as he will go without becoming anxious. Each time you feed him, place the dish a little further back in the crate.
- Once he is standing comfortably in the crate to eat his meal, you can close the door while he is eating. Open the crate door straight away, once he's finished eating, the first time you do this. Gradually leave the door closed a little longer each time until he can happily stay in the crate for 10 minutes after eating.

If he starts to cry and whimper, you may have increased the time too quickly. Next time, try leaving him in the crate for a shorter amount of time. If he does whine or cry in the crate, don't let him out until he stops. They are quick learners and he will soon learn that if he cries, he will be let out. It will make the training process a lot harder.

#### **Practice with longer crating times**

Once pup is happily eating all his meals in his crate, you can start to confine him for short amounts of time while you are at home.

- Call him to his crate and once he enters praise him and give him some biscuits or a treat.
- Sit quietly near the crate for a short time, and then go into another room for a few minutes. Return and with no fuss let him out of the crate.
- Repeat this process several times a day, gradually increasing the length of time you leave him in the crate and the length of time you're out of sight.

Once he will stay quietly in the crate for about half an hour with you mostly out of sight, you can begin leaving him crated when you're gone for short time periods and/or letting him sleep there at night. This may take several days or weeks.

#### **Crating pup when you leave**

After pup can happily spend about a half hour in his crate, you can start leaving him in there for short amounts of time while you leave your house. You may want to leave him with a treat or chew toy.

- Don't make any fuss when leaving. Praise your pup briefly, give him his treat for entering the crate, and then leave quietly.
- When you come home, avoid praising and rewarding your pup enthusiastically. You want to make arrivals no fuss, to avoid creating anxiety over when you will return.

#### **Crating Pup Over Night**

Put puppy in his crate and place him somewhere nearby, in the hallway or laundry. Puppies often need to go outside to toilet during the night, and you'll want to be able to hear your puppy when he whines to be let out to toilet, bring him out with no fuss and once finished bring him straight back in and crate him until morning. He should be brought outside first thing in the morning to avoid an accident in his crate.