Mountain Veterinary Hospital

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HOW TO: *Crate train your puppy*

- A dog should look upon a crate as a den and a place of safety, not a place of punishment.

- Get a crate large enough for puppy to move around comfortably (remember your puppy will grow). Do not get one so large that he/she can mess in the corner and sleep on the other side. You can put a box in back of the crate and remove when your puppy gets bigger.

- Make sure crate is comfortable by padding with blankets, towels or a bed.

- Introduce puppy to crate by putting a toy or treat inside and let puppy walk in by his/herself. Do not force him/her inside. Once the puppy is comfortable walking in and out of the crate, close the door gently, then open the door and give a treat. Do not open door unless puppy is quiet.

- Do the above procedure repeatedly with longer periods of "closed door time".

- If puppy is not under direct supervision, puppy should be confined to a crate or exercise pen.

- Puppy should only be confined for one hour more than the age in months. Example: For a two month old puppy, he/she should be crated no longer than three hours.

- Provide chew toys or toys stuffed with treats while crated to distract from boredom.

- Take puppy to designated potty area often. Pay special attention to going outside after eating, after playing or after waking up. Carry outside so he/she doesn't have an accident on the way out.

- Never punish for accidents in the house. If your puppy is having accidents take him/her out to go potty more often. If your puppy is going potty more frequently than normal he/she may have a medical problem. Have the urine checked by a veterinarian to make sure there isn't a health issue.

- If your puppy goes potty when you come home or when you pet him/her, it is referred to as submissive peeing. It is not considered an accident. Do not punish for this. It is a normal behavior. Wait until puppy is calm to give him/her attention, avoid eye contact and pet under chin and belly instead of on the head. They usually outgrow this behavior.