

# Lakecrew Portuguese Water Dogs

## Crate Training

The Portuguese Water Dog Club of America (PWDCA) highly recommends crate training, and so do we!

What is "crate training"? It is not a "cage" used for punishing the puppy. A crate is a useful training tool, just like a collar and leash, if used correctly. It has proven itself over and over again, in many different home situations, to be the fastest and easiest way to potty train a puppy.

The following is a sample day's routine that we recommend for young puppies:

### *Morning:*

- Puppy wakes up in her crate and you immediately take her outside on a leash to go potty. Praise Puppy highly after she does her business (this is something you should do every time.)
- Take Puppy back inside and feed her breakfast.
- After breakfast take Puppy back outside to go potty. It's a good idea to take Puppy to the same general area each time as the scents will help give her the urge.
- Take Puppy inside for playtime. She can be left loose in the house, under your watchful eye, to play for awhile. If she starts sniffing the floor or looks like she wants to squat, immediately ask her if she wants to go potty and take her outside (she may or may not actually need to).
- After playtime, take Puppy outside to go potty.
- Back inside place Puppy in her crate for a nap.

### *Noontime:*

- Puppy wakes from her nap and you immediately take her outside to go potty.
- Back into the house for lunch.
- After Puppy eats lunch, take her outside to go potty. After she does her business, you may wish to take her for a short walk around the neighborhood. Back home, give Puppy a chance to potty before you go into the house.
- Play with Puppy. Again, she can be left loose in the house, under your watchful eye.
- After playtime, take Puppy outside to go potty.
- Back inside place Puppy in her crate for a nap.

### *Evening:*

- After Puppy's nap, take her outside to go potty.
- Back in the house for playtime.
- After playtime, take Puppy outside to go potty.
- Back into the house for play and dinner.
- After dinner, take Puppy outside to go potty.

### *Bedtime:*

- Before bedtime, take Puppy outside to potty.
- Place Puppy into her crate for the night.

The above routine does not have to be followed exactly. It is just an example of how to work the puppy's schedule into your own life. Puppies, like children, need a routine.

As your puppy gets older and more reliable, the schedule can be relaxed. You may even choose to stop crating your puppy while you are at home. We do recommend always crating (or kenneling) your PWD when you leave the house.

\*The info in this document is based upon material found on the PWDCA web site ([www.pwdca.org](http://www.pwdca.org)).