



Putting Your Puppy To Bed The Cultured Canine Way

Separated from familiar people and their dams, littermates or puppy friends, newly arrived pups find themselves facing a big adjustment. The combination of new surroundings and confinement is a lot for a puppy to handle. Some puppies take longer than others to get used to sleeping in a crate overnight.

Here are some things you can do to ease the first few nights for your new puppy.

Stay nearby during the night

- Locate the crate in your bedroom.
- If the crate is small enough to fit safely on a sturdy nightstand, place the crate on the nightstand so the pup is at the same level as your bed and can see you.
- For larger crates or if you don't think it is safe to place it on a nightstand (very active puppy or other reason), plan to sleep on the floor near the puppy. Yes, we really do recommend this for the first few nights.
- Whether sleeping on the floor near your puppy or placing the pup's crate is on a nightstand, gradually increase the distance between you and the puppy over the first week or so that the puppy is at home.

Set the puppy up for sleeping success

- Do whatever you can to ensure that your puppy is tired BEFORE placing the puppy in the crate.
- Provide a lightly stuffed chew toy (i.e. spread wet puppy food inside the Kong rather than stuffing it completely) to give the pup something to focus on while settling down.
- Play soft music and do what you can to minimize outside noises which might startle the puppy.
- Place an item that smells like the puppy's mother or you in the crate.
- Some people find that Dog Appeasing Pheromone (DAP) works well for calming puppies. There is no hard science to prove this yet but if you want to try it, it does not appear to be harmful in any way. Ask your vet for an opinion if you are considering this option.
- Try cradling your puppy to sleep in your arms for the first few nights, then place the puppy in the crate while asleep.

My puppy wakes up during the night and goes crazy in the crate. What should I do?

Many puppies can't hold their eliminations through the night and will wake up with an urgent need to eliminate. Prevent this in the future by consulting with your vet about feeding times and water restrictions.

When you are already in this situation (puppy awake at 3am and barking or whining)

- Take the puppy to its potty area for 5 minutes.
- Return the pup to its crate whether it eliminates or not.
- Repeat until the puppy calms down.