

choke on a piece of rawhide or one or swallow/choke on bits of toy that have been shredded or chewed.

A couple of suggestions for initial crate training include:

....Place a treat in the crate as the pup watches. Leave the door open and see if the pup will go in on his own. If he does, mildly praise him. Later, when you put the pup in his crate for a period of time, give him a treat.

....Bring the crate into a family room, bedroom, etc. Allow the pup to investigate the crate and still be with the family. The crate then isn't perceived as a means of isolating the pup from the family.

...Use a specific command such as "Kennel" or "Crate", "Bed", or "in" when you want the pup to go into the crate. Tell him once in a pleasant but firm voice. It may be helpful to use a treat. If the pup obeys, praise quietly. If the pup does not obey the first command, go get him, and pleasantly but firmly repeat the command as you place him in the crate. DO NOT scold or the pup will associate the scolding with the crate and you will defeat your purpose. (Be sure to potty your pup before putting him in the crate for any period of time)

**A WORD OF ADVICE:** Initially the pup may very well howl or whine when placed in the crate. If the pup has been properly fed and exercised, put in earplugs, warn family and neighbors, and let him howl. He is looking for attention and release. If you keep going to him to say "hush" or give up and release him, he will continue to howl because it gets him what he wants. In most cases, once the pup learns you mean business, he'll accept the crate and even grow to recognize it as a place of security. This may take several days, but if you give up, the pup has won a round in the "Who's the Boss" battle.

This has been a bit lengthy, but should help you be ready for your new bundle of joy. Being prepared ahead of time will make thing easier for both you and you new puppy. Remember, content in this article is just my personal opinions. You need to communicate with your breeder and decide for yourself what is right for you and your puppy.

Next month, I will discuss potty training and "Teeth do not touch skin". As time goes on, I will also include articles on some basic tips for training puppies, Vitamin C, and other pertinent topics.

Pat Quinn

Everlore Goldens

[Everlore@insightbb.com](mailto:Everlore@insightbb.com)

[Return to the Original Article](#)

[Return to the Table Of Contents](#)