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Beginning Crate Training: A Primer

Crate training your German Shepherd puppy is relatively easy. BUT YOU MUST BE A VIGILANT PARTICIPANT.

1. Just get a crate large enough for the next 6 months (so he can turn around in it). Then make the space inside smaller for the puppy. Then he will probably not pee in the smaller area.
2. You can put in a box or some way to cut of the space. Then, put him in it and DO NOT give in when he at first cries. If you do, he will learn that yelling works.
3. Leave him in for maybe 30 minutes at a time, then take him out to pee and poop. Play and then back in for 30, out for an hour, in for 30. Increase the time to 45 then one hour and longer until he can stay in for 6 hours without peeing.

The most important things:

1. Take him/her out to pee after sleeping, playing, eating, when he comes out of the crate.
2. Do this immediately. Don't wait for an accident.
3. If he messes up it is likely your fault. You must be vigilant. Each mistake can imprint the incorrect behavior. You need to imprint the successful behavior!!
4. When he pees outside say "good outside" and really, really praise him.
5. Never let him play or roam unattended so you can catch him whenever he starts to pee. If he starts to pee or poop in the house grab him by the scruf of the neck (the skin) like the mother does, with just his two front paws off the ground, and shake hime until he until he cries a little and say "Phooey outside" or "bad outside".

6. Then take him out and when he pees or poops praise him with "good outside". Make your disappointment clear and make your praise very very lavish. You want him to say "you know, I didn't like what happened when I messed the house at all, but BOY DID I LOVE IT WHEN I WENT OUTSIDE."
7. He will get the point after a few punishments. DO NOT RUB HIM NOSE IN IT. Also, don't punish him unless you catch him doing it. If you find a puddle, you messed up and it is too late. New research disputes the claim that you must catch him/her in the act because they forget fast. This may be true more for a puppy than an adult. Likely a puppy forgets quickly.

