

Help my puppy is screaming in his crate this is probably one of the most common comments breeders hear.

I often find it quite amazing that anybody you could consider taking home an eight week old animal who has spent eight weeks of his life living alongside his littermates pop them in a crate and expect them to sit there quietly.

What you need to remember is how your puppy has been living for the last eight weeks- Your puppy has arrived into the world surrounded by his litter mates that he has just spent nine weeks in uterus with he is with them and his mother every single night since he was born and has slept with the warmth and comfort of others around him.

Teaching him to sleep in a crate is a slow adjustment it is not a case of putting him in and shutting the door all that will do his make him panic feel restrained and reinforce his fears that actually this new place is not a good place .

Firstly, think very carefully about where the crate is going to be located ensure that the room is warm and a room that people use the puppy should not be isolated

Use things such as nightlights and radios to provide a relaxing environment. Consider the use of plug-in pheromone diffusers such as adaptil to make the room a attractive place for a puppy to be.

Ensure the crate has comfy bedding and make use of the snuggle puppies with a heat disc with a little spray of adaptil on it just gives your puppy something to cuddle.

Initially you will be sleeping next to your puppy this is the best way to ensure your puppy and his crate form a good relationship make yourself a bed adjacent to the crate and every time he starts to cry put your hand to him and speak softly to him reassuring him that you are there.

In the initial days this can be every few minutes all night and yes it is tiring and stressful. However by doing it this way this means that only one person is with the puppy and hopefully the rest of the family get a good nights sleep you can then alternate the person that is with the puppy ensuring that everyone gets adequate sleep during this transition phase.

As the days and nights progress the time in between wakings will increase until eventually your puppy is happily sleeping through the night once this has happened and it has been an established behaviour for at least four or five nights you can then consider taking yourself back to your own bed and giving yourself a good pat on the back of a job well done in teaching your puppy his crate is safe place to be.