



Rovers Return Dog Rescue

Feed Fix Network

Puppy Crate Training and Accident Prevention

When a puppy who used to be clean in the crate starts pooping there, it usually means something in the routine, health, or comfort level has changed.

WHY IT MAY BE HAPPENING

Crate size or setup changed. If the crate is too large, the puppy may use one corner as a bathroom. Use a divider if needed.

Feeding schedule or diet changed. Puppies often poop 15 to 30 minutes after eating, so take them out right after meals.

Too much time in the crate. Puppies under six months often cannot hold it long. A rough guide is one hour per month of age.

Anxiety or fear. Stress after loud noise, moving crates, or negative associations can trigger accidents.

Medical issues. Parasites, dietary intolerance, or infections such as Giardia can cause loose stool or urgency.

Incomplete cleaning. Odor left in the crate can signal that it is an acceptable toilet spot. Use an enzyme cleaner.

WHAT TO DO STEP BY STEP

Return to a consistent routine. Feed at the same times daily and take the puppy out after eating, drinking, waking, and playing.

Keep a potty log for a few days to identify patterns.

Reset the crate association. Make the crate a resting and chewing area, not a punishment zone.

If you catch an accident, interrupt calmly and take the puppy outside without punishment.

Keep crate sessions short and success focused. Praise and reward every outdoor potty.

At night, do not feed or give water right before bed. Take the puppy outside one last time and wait until they relieve themselves.

WHEN TO CONSULT THE VETERINARIAN

Consult your veterinarian if accidents began suddenly, stool is soft or frequent, stool contains mucus or blood, or the puppy shows weight loss, lethargy, or loss of appetite.

Puppies can dehydrate quickly. Bring a stool sample to the veterinarian if you are uncertain.

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