

# CRATE/HOUSE TRAINING TIMETABLE

***A crate is your puppy's sanctuary. It is a place to spend private time with toys or bones, rest, or seek refuge from stressful situations, animals, or people.***

We do recommend an ex-pen set up with a crate and potty area. It is not reasonable to expect an 8, 10, or 12 week old puppy to be able to hold it at night. So, unless you want to get up several times a night to let your puppy out, a potty area is indicated.

We leave the ex-pen set up until at least 17 or 18 weeks because we want to make sure puppy has a rabies vaccination on board before we are forced to take the puppy out every time she has to eliminate. If the puppy wakes up in the middle of the night has to



go to the bathroom, we do not want to be taking her out in the dark where we cannot do a visual check of the yard for wildlife until after s/he is vaccinated for rabies (which happens at 16 weeks old, at the earliest). Obviously, this criterion will be quite different depending on where you live and what the local disease outlook is, but this works for us.

And to be honest we will sometimes leave it up until they are five months old because fully potty training a puppy requires a commitment of taking them out every hour and getting up a lot in the middle of the night. If we have got multiple puppies that we are running on, we cannot deal with the sleep deprivation.

I do love ♥ having "Area P" (P for Puppy) in our main living space because we get to be with our puppies without them being underfoot and I am

always sad when it is time to take it down, although I do appreciate having my living room back.

## **Crate Size**

Adjust the crate so that there is enough room for your puppy to stand up, stretch, turn around, and lie down comfortably, but no more. Your puppy should NOT feel like there is room to sleep AND have a toilet area. We recommend the MidWest iCrate or Amazon Basics crate with the double doors and divider.

## **Spending Time in the Crate**

Puppies from Guardian Boerboels have been sleeping in crates with the door open and have spent enjoyable time alone in crates (with special treats) with the door closed. Keep this training going by feeding meals in the crate and/or giving incredibly special treats in the crate with the door closed (for short periods). At other times, leave the door open for the puppy to access at will. If your puppy fusses when you close the door, do not open it until s/he is quiet. We do not recommend getting into a dialogue with your puppy at this time -- just ignore the puppy's noises without making your own noises. We

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might tap on the crate if puppy is getting agitated but will ignore small whimpers/whining.

## Nighttime

Put the crate in your bedroom at night. When you and your puppy are ready for bed, place your puppy in the crate (calmly, no talking) with a few treats, a bully stick and a maybe a toy, then close the door. Place an item or two of clothing near the crate so that the puppy can smell (but not reach) them. If the puppy whines or fusses a little, ignore it. Should it go on for longer than 15 minutes, or start to escalate, give the crate a gentle tap, but do not say anything. Do not get into a "conversation" with the puppy.

## House Training Schedule

Set up a schedule for your puppy's meals, playtime, crate time, trips outside, and follow it closely. The pup should be taken out to eliminate right after waking, about 20 minutes after eating, after play sessions and about every 3 hours in between. Make sure to plan for some EXERCISE as well. If you leave the house for work, leave the puppy and the OPEN crate in an easy-to-clean, puppy-proofed area (kitchen/bathroom/laundry room, Area 'P'). Puppies from Guardian Boerboels are trained to use a litter box (with wood pellets or shavings). If you have a dog door, confine the puppy to a small area around that, and fence in a small area outside the door. If you do not have a dog door, add a small litter box to the puppy area/pen.

## MidWest iCrate:

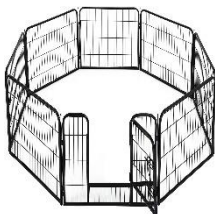
[https://www.amazon.com/dp/B083XD2V4C/ref=cm\\_sw\\_em\\_r\\_mt\\_dp\\_7P41MC2WYWGP\\_ZPPX4JZ8?encoding=UTF8&psc=1](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B083XD2V4C/ref=cm_sw_em_r_mt_dp_7P41MC2WYWGP_ZPPX4JZ8?encoding=UTF8&psc=1)



**Primo Pads (Crate Pads):** [www.primopads.com](http://www.primopads.com)

## Indoor/Outdoor Exercise Pen:

[https://www.amazon.com/dp/B003XTYN4Y/ref=cm\\_sw\\_em\\_r\\_mt\\_dp\\_1DW1CNNN50RK4\\_VYBJ2Q3?encoding=UTF8&psc=1](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B003XTYN4Y/ref=cm_sw_em_r_mt_dp_1DW1CNNN50RK4_VYBJ2Q3?encoding=UTF8&psc=1)



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**\*for 2–6-month-old puppy, eating 3x a day – Owner Works Full-time**

- **7:00 am** – Wake up. Go potty outside.
- **7:10-7:30 am** – Free time
- **7:30 am** – Breakfast
- **8:00 am** – Go potty outside. Crate Time – Leave stuffed animal & bully stick, a little bit of water or ice cubes **[but not food]**
- **Noon to 1pm** – Have a friend/neighbor/dog walker come to let your puppy out for a midday break.
- **6:00 pm** – Owner comes home. Puppy goes outside.
- **6:15-6:30 pm** – Free time in enclosure, training session, wear them out.
- **6:30 pm** – Dinner, pull up leftovers after 15-20 mins, regardless if finished.
- **7:00 pm** – Go potty outside, if they do not go after 10 mins, back to crate, try again every 10 mins.
- **7:30 pm** – Crate Time
- **9:00 pm** – Food and water, pull up leftover food and water, they will eventually learn to eat on time.
- **9:30 pm** – Go Potty, if they do not go within 10 mins, put them back in the crate, try again every 10 mins, should go once before free time or bed.
- **9:40 pm** – Free time in enclosure/ kitchen
- **10:00 pm** – Potty Outside – If your bedtime is closer to 10 pm, take them outside at 10 pm and then put them to bed at 10:10-10:30 pm.
- **11:00 pm** – Go outside, if they do not go, put them back in the crate, try again every 10 mins, if they have gone potty at least once after dinner and they are not going again, just put them to bed.
- **11:10** – Crate for the night. \*

\*Puppy may still wake up in the middle of the night to go potty the first few nights while their body is adjusting to the new schedule. If they go both pee and poop by 10-11pm and their last meal was at 5pm, then they should be able to make it through the night by the 3rd or 4th night. No problem.

**FIRST COUPLE DAYS:** Write down how long it takes for your puppy to actually go potty after they eat and drink and then adjust your schedule accordingly.



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**\*for 2–6-month-old puppy, eating 3x a day – Home All Day**

- **7:00 am** – Wake up. Go potty outside, if they do not go, they probably do not have too.
- **7:10-7:30 am** – Free time in an enclosed area like the kitchen, playtime
- **7:30 am** – Food and water – if they do not eat it all, that is OK, try again at lunch.
- **8:00 am** – Go potty outside, if they do not go within 10 mins, put them back in the crate, try again every 10-15 mins until they do and before any free time at 8:15 am
- **8:15 am** – Free time in enclosure
- **8:45 am** – Crate Time with **bully stick** or chewy toy
- **10:00 am** – Go potty outside, free play inside enclosure or supervised outside, play ball, burn off some puppy energy.
- **10:45 am** – Crate Time
- **12:00 pm** – Food and water, if they do not eat, pull up food after 15-20 mins, try again at dinner.
- **12:30 pm** – Go potty outside, free play in the yard or in enclosure.
- **1:15 pm** – Crate Time
- **3:15 pm** – Go potty outside, free play in enclosure or in the yard.
- **3:45 pm** – Crate Time
- **5:00 pm** – Food and water, pull up leftover food after 15 mins.
- **5:30 pm** – Go outside, if they do not go potty after 10 mins, back to the crate, try again in 10-15 mins.
- **6:15 pm** – Crate Time
- **8:00 pm** – Last Water for the night, leave down until they go outside at 8:15 pm
- **8:15 pm** – Go potty outside, if they do not go potty within 10 mins, back to the crate, try again in 10 mins.
- **8:30 pm** – Free time in enclosure, playtime with owner, training games, try to wear them out.
- **9:00 pm** –Crate Time, until 11 pm OR if your bedtime is closer to 10 pm, you can take them outside at 10 pm and then put them to bed at 10:10 pm instead of 11:00 pm.
- **11:00 pm** – Go potty outside, if they do not go within 10 mins, try again in 10 mins before they go back to the crate for the night.
- **11:15 pm** – Crate for the night\*

*\* Puppy may still wake up in the middle of the night to go potty the first few nights while their body is adjusting to the new schedule. If they go both pee and poop by 10-11pm and their last meal was at 5pm, then they should be able to make it through the night by the 3rd or 4th night. No problem.*

**FIRST COUPLE DAYS:** Write down how long it takes for your puppy to actually go potty after they eat and drink and then adjust your schedule accordingly.