



Aug/09

kennel

When to use the indoor kennel

The indoor kennel takes the place of your dogs' bed, so it is to be used for sleeping both when you are in and when you are out. If you do not train your dog to cope with the kennel when you are in the house, he will find it far harder to cope with solitude when you are out.

Visit our website or ask for a copy of our care booklet or CD for almost everything you need to know about your greyhound.

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dog kennel



Using an Indoor kennel

retired greyhound trust



Using an indoor kennel:

Why?



To aid house training, for curing the consequences of separation anxiety (chewing, scratching), or to give the dog a necessary safety zone (i.e. to relax from children when he is tired). It is far removed from keeping a dog in an outside kennel, which just furthers his anxiety and compounds the problem until the dog ends up living outside all the time.

How it works

It creates a simulation to the wolves' 'den'. In nature wolves create dens for protection and personal security. Similarly your dog will feel confident, relaxed, and less panicky when in a small enclosed area, provided he is conditioned to accept it as a good thing. The kennel will also prevent destruction of the house or car, and a dog is far less likely to mess in an area that is so small it may have to lay in it. The kennel need only be a short term measure, in order to help break bad habits, but if conditioned properly dogs grow to love their private den and the kennel often ends up as a permanent fixture. The cost of an indoor kennel may be up to £100 - a lot less however than a new sofa, carpet, seatbelts, or a Sunday morning trip to the vets.

Encouraging your dog in

When you bring the kennel indoors decide where it is to be positioned. Your dog must feel comfortable in it as his place of rest, so it would be unfair to banish him to the kitchen if most of your time is spent in the living room. Your dog will appreciate having some seclusion so do not put it in the middle of the room, but along one wall, in the corner or by a chair. Put inside the dog's normal bed, a small bowl of water and his favourite toy, chew or Kong(s). Now shut the door of the kennel and walk away and go to sit down, ignoring your dog. With any luck he will take an interest in the kennel, and then a real interest when he realises the door is shut and he wants to get in to his favourite chew/toy. Don't get him excited but open the door and let him calmly inside. Do not shut the door on him at this stage, but only allow him to lie down to munch if he is inside the kennel. If he attempts to lay on the floor, by your feet, or anywhere

kennel

as his place of rest

else show him his bed in the kennel and insist he lie there. He will soon realise that if he doesn't munch his chew in the kennel he doesn't get to munch his chew at all! It may be a battle of wills, with you keeping watch over the first day/evening so that every time he goes to lie down you direct him into the kennel. The strongest will power will win the day!

Training

If you are unable to get your dog to lie in his new bed because he ignores you and just does what he wants, then you are in need of general obedience training with your dog to teach him to understand your spoken commands. All dogs must know their name and understand the words COME, NO and STAY.

Accepting the kennel

When he feels confident enough in the kennel to sleep, you can begin to shut the door on him for periods when you are in the room. Soon you should be able to leave the room briefly (i.e. to use the bathroom, answer the phone, or make tea) while your dog is shut in the kennel. As you start to move away from the kennel tell your dog to 'stay' (again he must already understand this command, or you need to attend general training classes). If he whines or makes a fuss, reprimand him with the word 'no' in a stern, low voice and continue leaving the room. You may need to repeat this, always praising your dog without fuss when you return and he has been quiet. If your dog is the suspicious type then feed him inside the kennel - making sure there is no other food available to him. Do not make a big deal of it - your apprehension will rub off on your pet! Just show your dog his dinner, then pop the bowl in the kennel. Do not shut the door as soon as he is in, it will create an instant feeling of prison for the dog. You can always try getting in yourself if it is big enough and you are small enough! When he feels OK about going in and out shut the door on him. Stay next to the kennel and talk nicely to him, getting him to lie down. At first some firmness may be needed, especially when you are using the kennel to help a behavioural problem, or if time is short. You should however find that within a short space of time your dog accepts the kennel with no apprehension.