

crate training a labrador retriever puppy

crate training a labrador retriever puppy is an essential step in raising a well-behaved, secure, and happy dog. This method provides a safe and comfortable space for your puppy while aiding in housebreaking, reducing destructive behavior, and establishing a routine. Labrador retrievers, known for their intelligence and energy, respond well to crate training when introduced properly. This article covers the fundamentals of crate training, including selecting the right crate, introducing it to your puppy, establishing a training schedule, and troubleshooting common issues. By following these guidelines, dog owners can ensure a smooth and effective crate training experience for their Labrador retriever puppy. The following sections will guide you through the process step-by-step.

- Choosing the Right Crate for Your Labrador Retriever Puppy
- Introducing the Crate to Your Puppy
- Creating a Crate Training Schedule
- Housebreaking and Crate Training
- Common Challenges and How to Overcome Them

Choosing the Right Crate for Your Labrador Retriever Puppy

Selecting the appropriate crate is the foundation of successful crate training a Labrador retriever puppy. The crate must be large enough for the puppy to stand, turn around, and lie down comfortably, yet not so large that it encourages elimination inside the crate. Given that Labrador retrievers grow quickly, it is advisable to choose a crate with adjustable dividers or purchase one that accommodates their adult size with room for growth. Material and style also matter, with wire crates offering ventilation and visibility, while plastic crates provide a more enclosed, den-like environment.

Size Considerations

When choosing a crate size, measure your puppy from the tip of the nose to the base of the tail and from the ground to the top of the head. Add a few inches to each measurement to ensure comfort. The ideal crate size for a Labrador retriever puppy is typically between 24 to 36 inches, depending on their current and expected adult size.

Material and Durability

Wire crates are popular for crate training a Labrador retriever puppy because they are lightweight, portable, and provide excellent airflow. They often come with removable trays for easy cleaning.

Plastic crates are sturdier and offer a cozy, enclosed space, which some puppies prefer. Consider your puppy's behavior; if they tend to chew or try to escape, opting for a more durable crate is crucial.

Additional Features

Look for crates with secure latches to prevent accidental escapes. A crate with a divider panel is beneficial to adjust the space as your puppy grows. Some crates come with covers or pads to enhance comfort, making the crate a more inviting place for your Labrador retriever puppy.

Introducing the Crate to Your Puppy

Introducing the crate in a positive and gradual manner is vital for successful crate training a Labrador retriever puppy. The goal is to create a positive association so the puppy views the crate as a safe and enjoyable space rather than a place of punishment or isolation.

Making the Crate Inviting

Place soft bedding inside the crate to provide comfort. Leave the door open initially and encourage the puppy to explore the crate by placing treats, toys, or favorite chews inside. This encourages voluntary entry and builds positive associations with the crate environment.

Using Positive Reinforcement

Reward the puppy with treats and praise whenever they enter or remain calm inside the crate. Avoid forcing the puppy into the crate or closing the door abruptly, as this can create fear or resistance. Gradual steps help the puppy become comfortable at their own pace.

Short Initial Sessions

Start with short crate sessions while the puppy is awake and content. Gradually increase the time spent inside the crate, always ensuring the puppy remains relaxed. Frequent breaks and monitoring prevent anxiety and help build trust in the crate training process.

Creating a Crate Training Schedule

Establishing a consistent crate training schedule is essential for reinforcing good habits and promoting effective housebreaking. Labrador retriever puppies thrive with routine, which helps reduce anxiety and unwanted behaviors.

Frequency and Duration

Puppies have limited bladder control, especially in the early weeks, so crate time should be balanced with frequent bathroom breaks. Generally, puppies can hold their bladder for one hour per month of age, up to a maximum of about 4-5 hours. Crate sessions should never be excessively long to avoid stress and discomfort.

Incorporating Play and Exercise

Ensure the puppy receives ample playtime and exercise outside of the crate to expend energy in healthy ways. A tired puppy is more likely to rest calmly inside the crate. Integrate crate time around feeding schedules and naps for a natural routine.

Sample Crate Training Schedule

- Morning: Take the puppy outside immediately after waking for a bathroom break, followed by playtime.
- Mid-Morning: Crate time for 30-60 minutes with interactive toys.
- Lunch: Another bathroom break, feeding, and supervised play.
- Afternoon: Crate rest period followed by bathroom break.
- Evening: Playtime and training sessions, then crate time before bedtime.
- Night: Limit crate time to a few hours with scheduled bathroom breaks.

Housebreaking and Crate Training

One of the primary benefits of crate training a Labrador retriever puppy is effective housebreaking. The crate helps teach bladder and bowel control by leveraging the puppy's natural instinct to avoid soiling their sleeping area.

Recognizing Signs and Timing

Observe your puppy for signs indicating the need to eliminate, such as sniffing, circling, or whining. Promptly take the puppy outside during these moments after crate time or naps to reinforce appropriate bathroom habits.

Consistency and Patience

Consistent routines and patient reinforcement are key. Praise and reward the puppy immediately after successful elimination outdoors to strengthen the desired behavior. Avoid punishment for accidents, as this can hinder progress and create fear.

Cleaning Up Accidents

Accidents are inevitable during housebreaking. Clean any soiled areas thoroughly with enzymatic cleaners to remove odors that might encourage repeat accidents. Maintaining a clean environment supports the crate training process and housebreaking success.

Common Challenges and How to Overcome Them

Crate training a Labrador retriever puppy can present challenges that require thoughtful strategies to address. Understanding common issues helps prevent setbacks and ensures a positive experience for both owner and puppy.

Resistance to the Crate

Some puppies may initially resist entering the crate. To overcome this, use high-value treats and toys to lure the puppy inside. Avoid forcing or scolding, which can create negative associations. Gradually increase crate time and maintain a calm, positive demeanor.

Excessive Barking or Whining

Whining or barking in the crate often signals discomfort or a need for attention. Ensure the puppy's basic needs—bathroom, hunger, thirst, and exercise—are met before crating. If the puppy is otherwise comfortable, brief ignoring of attention-seeking behavior helps reduce noise over time.

Chewing and Destructive Behavior

Labrador retriever puppies are naturally curious and prone to chewing. Provide safe chew toys inside the crate to redirect this behavior. Regular exercise and mental stimulation outside the crate reduce boredom and destructive tendencies.

Separation Anxiety

Crate training can sometimes trigger separation anxiety in sensitive puppies. Build confidence through gradual departures and arrivals, and avoid making a big fuss when leaving or returning. In severe cases, consulting a professional trainer or veterinarian may be necessary.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is crate training and why is it important for a Labrador Retriever puppy?

Crate training is the process of teaching your Labrador Retriever puppy to see their crate as a safe and comfortable space. It is important because it helps with house training, prevents destructive behavior, and provides your puppy with a secure retreat.

At what age should I start crate training my Labrador Retriever puppy?

You can start crate training your Labrador Retriever puppy as early as 8 weeks old. Early introduction helps the puppy get accustomed to the crate and makes training easier.

How long should a Labrador Retriever puppy stay in the crate?

A general rule is that puppies can hold their bladder for one hour per month of age, up to about 6-8 hours for adult dogs. Young Labrador puppies should not be crated for more than 2-3 hours at a time during the day to prevent distress and accidents.

How do I make the crate a positive experience for my Labrador Retriever puppy?

Make the crate comfortable by adding soft bedding and toys. Use treats and praise to encourage your puppy to enter the crate voluntarily. Feeding meals in the crate can also create positive associations.

What are some common mistakes to avoid during crate training?

Common mistakes include using the crate as punishment, keeping the puppy crated for too long, forcing the puppy into the crate, and not providing enough breaks for exercise and bathroom needs.

How can I help my Labrador Retriever puppy stop whining or barking in the crate?

Ensure the puppy's needs are met before crating (exercise, bathroom, food). Ignore attention-seeking whining, but respond to genuine distress. Gradually increase crate time and provide toys or chew items to keep them occupied.

Can crate training help with housebreaking my Labrador Retriever puppy?

Yes, crate training is very effective for housebreaking because dogs naturally avoid soiling their

sleeping area. Keeping the puppy in the crate when unsupervised helps them learn bladder and bowel control.

How do I transition my Labrador Retriever puppy to sleeping in the crate at night?

Place the crate near your bed initially so your puppy feels secure. Establish a bedtime routine and ensure they have had a bathroom break before bedtime. Gradually move the crate to your preferred location if desired.

What size crate is suitable for a Labrador Retriever puppy?

Choose a crate that is large enough for your puppy to stand, turn around, and lie down comfortably, but not so large that they can eliminate in one corner and sleep in another. Consider a crate with dividers to adjust the space as your puppy grows.

How do I know if my Labrador Retriever puppy is ready to be out of the crate more often?

Your puppy may be ready for more freedom when they consistently eliminate outside, show good behavior when supervised, and are able to be calm and settled without destructive habits. Gradually increase crate-free time while monitoring behavior.

Additional Resources

1. Crate Training Your Labrador Retriever Puppy: A Step-by-Step Guide

This book offers a comprehensive, easy-to-follow approach to crate training your Labrador Retriever puppy. It covers the basics of crate introduction, creating a positive association, and troubleshooting common issues. Ideal for first-time puppy owners, it emphasizes patience and consistency for successful training.

2. The Labrador Retriever Puppy Crate Training Manual

Focused exclusively on Labs, this manual dives into breed-specific tips to make crate training effective and stress-free. It includes daily schedules, feeding routines, and playtime strategies that complement crate use. The book also addresses separation anxiety and how to prevent it through crate training.

3. Happy Pup, Happy Crate: Training Labs with Love and Patience

This heartwarming guide encourages positive reinforcement techniques and gentle methods to crate train your Labrador puppy. It highlights the importance of building trust and making the crate a safe haven. Readers will find practical advice and real-life success stories to inspire their training journey.

4. Mastering Crate Training for Your Labrador Retriever

A detailed resource that covers every aspect of crate training, from selecting the right crate size to nighttime routines. The author explains behavioral science behind crate training and how it benefits a Labrador's development. This book is perfect for owners who want to understand the "why" behind each training step.

5. *Crate Training 101: Labrador Retriever Edition*

Designed as an introductory guide, this book breaks down crate training into simple daily tasks. It emphasizes creating a consistent schedule and using treats and toys to encourage your puppy. With clear illustrations and checklists, it's great for busy owners seeking straightforward guidance.

6. *The Labrador Puppy Crate Training Solution*

This book tackles common challenges such as whining, barking, and crate refusal with practical, tested techniques. It offers advice on adapting crate training for different puppy temperaments. The solution-oriented approach helps owners stay calm and confident throughout the process.

7. *Positive Crate Training for Labrador Retrievers*

Focusing on reward-based training, this book teaches how to use positive reinforcement to make crate time enjoyable. It provides tips on timing, praise, and using the crate for more than just confinement, like rest and quiet time. The author also discusses how crate training supports overall obedience.

8. *Crate Training Your Labrador Puppy: Building a Lifelong Safe Space*

This guide emphasizes creating a crate environment that your Labrador will love and return to naturally. It includes advice on bedding, crate placement, and making the crate part of daily routines. The book helps owners foster independence and reduce anxiety through consistent crate use.

9. *The Ultimate Labrador Retriever Crate Training Handbook*

A thorough handbook that covers everything from puppy-proofing your crate area to transitioning out of crate training. It includes expert tips, troubleshooting, and FAQs tailored for Labrador owners. This ultimate resource is perfect for those seeking a complete understanding of crate training techniques.

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Margaret H. Bonham, 2002-09-01 The Complete Idiot's Guide(R) to Labrador Retrievers will cover everything a new or prospective Lab owner would need to know, including: deciding whether or not a Labrador Retriever is right for you, and vice-versa, the history of the breed, and how to find a reputable breeder. This book also tells readers how to acclimate their new Lab to their home, housetrain, manage their Lab's nutrition and health, what to do in an emergency, how to training their Labrador Retriever, how to deal with mistakes, and understanding Lab behavior. AUTHBIO = Margaret H. Bonham is a professional freelance writer and sled dog racer in Colorado. Her writing credits include six books (published or under contract). Her work has appeared in various national pet publications including Dog Fancy, Dog World, Dog and Kennel, Pet Life, Pet View, Natural Pet, and Mushing Magazine. She has been a columnist and contributing editor for Dog and Kennel and PetView magazines and she was a frequent contributor to pets.com and vetmedcenter.com Internet sites. Maggie has written a column on nutrition for Pet View Magazine, plus several columns on basic dog nutrition. She has also formulated her own racing diet for her sled dogs for optimal

performance.

crate training a labrador retriever puppy: Labrador Retriever Oliver Jensen, 2016-11-17
Labrador Retriever Complete Labrador Puppy Training Techniques - Care, Discipline, Potty And Crate Training Guide The Labrador Retriever: Complete Labrador Puppy Training Techniques - Care, Discipline, Potty And Crate Training Guide The Labrador retriever is a calm dog and it requires energy and activities. This special dog is great to keep with your children. You can buy a puppy and train this dog to teach discipline and crate training. In this book, you will learn about different things important for the health of your Labrador. This dog requires your special attention and you have to spend a good amount of time with your dog to socialize it. You will learn about crate training to keep your Labrador in a safe crate. Your selected crate should have everything for the convenience of your puppy. After reading this book, you will learn important things to protect your puppy from different problems. Here is a preview of what you'll learn: Potty Training for Labrador Puppy Crate Training for Labrador Puppy Common Diseases in Labrador Pets Tips to Pamper Your Labrador and Keep it Clean

crate training a labrador retriever puppy: The Complete Labrador Puppy Training Guide Dr Hudson Barkley, 2025-07-07 Tired of endless potty accidents, biting fits, and a hyper Lab puppy who just won't chill? If you're overwhelmed by house training struggles, leash-pulling chaos, or non-stop chewing in your Labrador Retriever puppy, you're not alone-and this is the guide every frustrated dog parent needs. The Complete Labrador Puppy Training Guide offers a gentle, positive reinforcement approach to Labrador Retriever training, from the very first day home to fully grown adulthood. Whether you're a first-time dog owner or need a reset after multiple failed methods, this book delivers a real-life, expert-backed roadmap to raising a calm, obedient, and well-mannered Labrador. What You'll Discover Inside Proven strategies for crate training puppy (Ch.5) and potty training a Labrador without stress or punishment. A complete house training lab puppies routine that works day or night (see Chapter5). Age-specific techniques for obedience training for dogs, including sit, stay, and come (Ch.6 & 10). Practical methods to stop Labrador pulling and improve leash training without force (Ch.6). How to gently calm a hyperactive puppy through structured routines, enrichment, and bonding (Ch.9 & 10). Solutions for puppy biting and chewing that don't involve yelling or confusion (Ch.6). A step-by-step crate training for beginners plan so your puppy feels safe and secure-not punished (Ch.5). Compassionate strategies for separation anxiety, resource guarding, and behavior correction (Ch.15). Guidance that reflects a full Labrador retriever behavior guide, backed by real testimonies and top dog coaching insights. Why This Guide Stands Out Labrador puppy training designed for your breed's unique personality, energy, and intelligence. No harsh corrections-just clear, kind, and effective communication. Works across puppy, adolescent, and adult stages-it grows with your Lab. Easy-to-follow training plans, feeding routines, and daily structure that actually fit your schedule. Filled with real stories from Lab parents who've been where you are-and came out stronger. Whether your goal is potty training, leash manners, or full obedience training, this guide combines the power of a Labrador retriever puppy training guide with modern, science-based practices that deliver results. Your Calm, Confident Labrador Starts Here □ Housebreak your Lab with less stress and more success (Ch.3 & 5). □ Fix biting, zoomies, and hyperactivity without yelling (Ch.6 & 9). □ Build lifelong obedience and trust using routines that work (Ch.10). □ Handle adult behaviors like marking, guarding, and anxiety with calm leadership (Ch.15). Create the Labrador You've Always Dreamed Of Every sleepless night, chewed shoe, and confusing command can be replaced with clarity, calm, and connection-if you have the right guide in hand. Grab your copy today

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learning, or an adult dog who has had confusion for years, this book includes sample schedules, answers to all of your questions, and solutions to many common and not-so-common problems. ~Crate Training ~Feeding & Watering Schedules ~In-Depth Problem Solving ~Designated Bathroom Area ~And Much More! With over 10 years of experience training family pets, Lori Verni provides you with realistic methods to help you teach your dog. Adaptable to your own lifestyle, you too can enjoy a trustworthy, housebroken pet within 30 days or less. Be sure to check out the sample chapter which reveals the full table of contents. You'll be amazed at how Lori Verni has truly thought of Everything You Need to Know About House Training Puppies & Adult Dogs! Buy the book now!

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crate training a labrador retriever puppy: Your Labrador Retriever Puppy Month by Month, 2nd Edition Terry Albert, Debra Eldredge DVM, Don Ironside, Barb Ironside, 2016-05-10 Your Labrador Retriever Puppy Month by Month, Second Edition, provides new puppy owners with everything you need to know and do at each stage of development to make sure your playful, energetic puppy grows into a happy, healthy, and well-adjusted companion. Expert authors Terry Albert, vet Deb Eldredge, and breeder Joanne Olivier team up to cover all the questions new owners tend to have and may not think to ask, including: • What to ask the breeder before bringing your puppy home. • Which vaccinations your puppy needs and when to get them. • How to make potty training as smooth (and quick) as possible. • What to do when your puppy cries at night. • Why and how to crate train your puppy. • When socialization should happen and how to make sure it does. • When your puppy is ready to learn basic commands—like Sit, Stay, and Come—and the best way to teach them. • When and how to go about leash training. • How much exercise your puppy needs to stay physically and mentally healthy. • What, how much, and when to feed your puppy to give him the nutrition he needs without the extra weight he doesn't. • When your puppy is ready for obedience training and how to make sure it works. • How and how often to bath your puppy, brush his coat, clip his nails, and brush his teeth. • How to know what requires a trip to the vet and what doesn't. • What causes problem behaviors, when to expect them, and how to correct them.

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crate training a labrador retriever puppy: *Labrador Retrievers For Dummies* Joel Walton, Eve Adamson, 2011-03-16 You have a picture in your head. A picture of yourself with your practically perfect dog. You've always preferred big dogs, and your ideal dog is sturdy, strong, and

energetic. At the same time, you envision a dog who is gentle and completely in tune to your needs, your whims, and your every move. That perfect dog is likely a Labrador Retriever. After all, the Labrador Retriever is the most popular dog in the United States, according to American Kennel Club registrations. Labs are beautiful, friendly, adaptable, easygoing, brave, loyal, dependable, and intelligent. What could be better? Labrador Retrievers For Dummies is a useful guide to have if you're thinking of getting a Lab or even if you already own one. Perhaps you're just curious about this popular breed. This handy reference is for you if you want to Find out if a Lab suits your lifestyle Know what to look for in Lab pups Determine if a breeder meets high standards Understand health and nutrition needs Handle emergencies with a cool head Train your dog with the lure-and-reward technique Show off your Lab in competitions You can live a fulfilling life with your Lab by making sure she is socialized, healthy, and well trained. What better task for humans and dogs than to be great companions for each other? However, you may need some help in knowing how to get the most out of your relationship with your Lab. This friendly guide offers that help with the following topics and more: Exercising your pup and older Lab Choosing the right veterinarian Exploring spaying/neutering Keeping your Lab beautiful with good grooming Helping your dog deal with divorce, a new baby, moving Managing barking and whining Housetraining your new puppy Traveling to dog-friendly vacation destinations Choosing a pet sitter or boarding kennel Volunteering your lab as a therapy dog Labrador Retrievers are big, energetic, and sometimes boisterous (especially as puppies), and they don't take care of themselves. They need you. Don't let them need you unless you're ready to be needed.

crate training a labrador retriever puppy: Labrador Retriever Margaret A. Gilbert, 2003-09-01 The experts at Kennel Club Books present the world's largest series of breed-specific canine care books. Each critically acclaimed Comprehensive Owner's Guide covers everything from breed standards to behavior, from training to health and nutrition. With nearly 200 titles in print, this series is sure to please the fancier of even the rarest of breeds.

crate training a labrador retriever puppy: A New Owner's Guide to Labrador Retrievers Misty B., 2012-03-14 ABOUT THE BOOK The Labrador Retriever, commonly known as the Lab, was originally bred to retrieve fishing nets from the water, and to catch fish which jumped off the hook. The lab insured a greater catch for fishermen who had a retriever in their care. As the breed evolved, Labs rapidly gained popularity as a hunting dog and as a companion. Today, its intelligence and their ability to be trained which have made the breed indispensable in a wide variety of fields. Raising Labradors is a rewarding experience for a multitude of reasons. First, labs are extremely popular, and thus very easy to market. In fact, according to the American Kennel Club's rankings, they have been the most popular dogs in America for more than 20 years. They are energetic and loyal companions that appeal to a variety of owners because of their varied skill set. They also have a fantastic personality, as they are typically mild-tempered and extremely intelligent. MEET THE AUTHOR Misty B. is an experienced writer and a member of the Hyperink Team, which works hard to bring you high-quality, engaging, fun content. Happy reading! EXCERPT FROM THE BOOK Some of the most unique and remarkable physical attributes carried by the Lab breed are directly related to their early use by fishermen. The distinct interwoven pattern of their coat has unique waterproof qualities. Moisture will bead up and roll off their coat making it easier for them to swim without resistance. It also provides a unique layer of insulation, as water does not penetrate the inner layers of the coat so that labs stay both dry and warm in damp conditions. Labrador retrievers also have webbed feet which make the excellent swimmers, and which make them more sure-footed on rough or slick terrain. Finally, their tail is wide and flat; designed to be used like a propeller behind the body while swimming. Basic obedience training should always be completed before expecting a lab to learn a special skill set. Obedience training should begin at about eight weeks and continue until the dog is well behaved and consistently responsive. New skills, which target specialized purposes, like service or hunting, can then be added. There is a separate and distinct set of standards for dogs that will be used as service animals. Before a lab can qualify as a service dog, it must undergo emotional stability assessments, control and dexterity trials, exams for physical soundness and more.

These tests should be performed before training begins for service skills. Dogs are trained for service between eight months and a year old, and generally go into service between the ages of 18 months and two years. CHAPTER OUTLINE A New Owner's Guide to Labrador Retrievers + Introduction + Physical Attributes + Unique Features + Training Labs to Serve a Special Purpose + ...and much more

crate training a labrador retriever puppy: Meet the Lab American Kennel Club, 2011-07-19 Meet the Lab is the first official publication endorsed by the world's leading authority on purebred dogs, the American Kennel Club (AKC) devoted to America's most popular dog, the Labrador Retriever. As the AKC's number-one breed in registration statistics for twenty consecutive years, the Labrador Retriever reigns as America's top companion breed, though the breed's superb athleticism has led it to excel as a hunting and competition dog as well.. Eleven chapters detail the history, characteristics, and special requirements for owning this active Sporting breed, heavily illustrated with beautiful color images of puppies and adults. A chapter devoted to the purchase and selection of the Lab puppy gives the reader specific guidance on how to locate a qualified breeder and to recognize a healthy, sound puppy whether for companionship or sport, or both. Two separate chapters serve as a primer to training the puppy--house-training and obedience work, favoring positive-training techniques as the best and most successful way to educate dogs. Chapters on grooming, feeding, exercise, and home and veterinary care offer indispensable information for new dog owners. As an official publication of the AKC, produced in conjunction with the Labrador Retriever Club, Meet the Lab also explains the many vital programs offered by the AKC to all pet dog owners, including the S.T.A.R. Puppy and the Canine Good Citizen programs, as well as overview to the various dog sports in which Labs excel, including obedience, field trials, dog shows, agility, and more. A detailed resources section offers recommendations for websites, books, periodicals, and club affiliate programs, all of great interest to responsible new dog owners.

crate training a labrador retriever puppy: How To House-train Your Dog Pasquale De Marco, 2025-05-09 How To House-train Your Dog is the ultimate guide to house training your dog, written by renowned dog trainer Pasquale De Marco. With over 20 years of experience, Pasquale De Marco has helped countless dog owners successfully house train their furry friends. In this book, Pasquale De Marco shares his expert advice on how to housetrain dogs of all ages, from puppies to adult dogs. He covers a wide range of topics, from understanding your dog's instincts to solving common house training problems. He also provides tips on how to house train dogs in different environments, such as apartments and rural areas. Whether you're a first-time dog owner or you're looking for new ways to improve your dog's behavior, How To House-train Your Dog is the ultimate resource for house training your dog. Here's what you'll learn in How To House-train Your Dog: * The importance of understanding your dog's instincts * How to use crate training to your advantage * The basics of potty training * How to house train adult dogs * How to house train puppies * How to solve common house training problems * How to maintain house training With clear instructions and helpful tips, How To House-train Your Dog will help you housetrain your dog quickly and effectively. Don't let house training be a chore. With How To House-train Your Dog, you can make it a breeze! If you like this book, write a review on google books!

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