



A Simple Guide to Pen Training Your Pet

Congratulations on becoming a pet parent! The next step is selecting a pet pen or “special room” and location in your home to house your new pup. It’s important to understand the concept of owning a pet pen and its role in the development of your dog’s overall well-being. Because dogs have a strong natural desire to curl up in small areas, they prefer to sleep in a “den” environment. Richell pet pens, when used properly, can actually simulate this “denning” preference right in your own home! And, once your pet is trained, the pen will become your dog’s very own “special” space where he/she can relax, feel safe and feel secure!

Choosing the proper pen size is critical to the overall success of your pet’s training. The area inside should fit your dog comfortably. Your pet should have enough room to stand up, turn around and lie down. If you have a puppy and purchase a pen that will house your pet when he/she reaches adulthood, block off the back portion of the pen so that your pup does not “potty” in one corner

and eat and sleep in another. Dogs will not “go” in the area where they eat and sleep.

Begin your puppy’s training between seven and sixteen weeks of age. Training during this period strongly discourages any feelings of insecurity, nervousness and anxiety that your pup may be experiencing – feelings that can lead to behavioral problems. Your puppy’s pen will provide a great deal of security and emotional satisfaction and actually enable you to raise a better-adjusted and self-confident pet!

Begin your training by selecting a location in your home that provides enough space for the pen, away from cold drafts and heat sources. Place an old towel or blanket with your scent on it inside for bedding. **Do not use a dog pad or bed until your puppy has outgrown accidents and chewing.**

Introduce your dog to the pen gently but cheerfully. If necessary, place a toy or treat inside to encourage your dog to enter. **Never force your pet to go inside the pen.** Be patient and your dog will eventually go in on his/her own. When he/she does, **do not close the door**, but reward your dog with praise! It is critical that your pet associate his/her “new” home with feelings of safety and security from the very beginning.

Allow your dog some time to get comfortable with going in and out of the pen. When you feel that your pet is happy and no longer afraid of the pen, make him/her stay in it for a few minutes by restraining your pet at the door **with your hand**. Remember to praise your pet! Next, gradually increase the time. Once your dog is comfortable with being inside the pen, you will want to begin concentrating on restraining him/her at the door **with the door**. Again, always praise your pet for good behavior!

This training session can take a few hours or days depending on the differences in temperament, sensitivity and breed of your pet. **Be patient! Never scold or punish your pet if he/she is unresponsive.** Patience, a calm voice, and praise will encourage desirable behavior. Once your dog feels secure in the pen with the door closed, he/she will eventually sit quietly and sleep in it. You are now ready to “house train” your pet!

Tips:

- **Do not leave your young pup in his kennel all day**, at best, a puppy can last about 2-4 hours.
- During the first few days of training, place the pen in your bedroom at night to help your pet adjust to his new environment and to alleviate stress.
- Remember that praising encourages desirable behavior!
- Richell offers both stationary and mobile pet pens; click [here](#) for more product information!