

# Why does your lonely puppy cry?

Instinct. Instinct is the hard-wired response to need and danger that saves our lives. If your puppy is crying in her crate, she isn't "whining" about her lot in life. Not a spoiled baby who wants her way, she is responding instinctually to... well, not danger but her deep knowing that things are not right. She knows that she should not be alone; a pup alone will not survive. Her body knows - her instincts know- Alone equals death. She is saying, "Here I am. Find me."

So, make her safe. First, put her kennel in your bedroom not in the in the laundry room or basement. When a puppy is born, she takes in the world through her nose. Eyes open at 10 to 14 days and ears "open" at 21 days. If the crate is in the bedroom, she can smell you. She knows she is not alone... and still – she might want to be closer. Remember – whining and a pup's dependence on you is age related. A 10 week old pup is more independent than an 8 week old baby. At 12 weeks, a pup is far more capable and confident.

When you take your baby out in the yard and discover that he doesn't need a leash, he stays right with you - that, too, is instinct. When your baby reaches doggy adolescence, he will run across the street to play with the other dogs and act like he never met you. Consider a pup's age related needs when you adopt. Is a baby the right choice for you?

Back to that baby in the crate - Put the crate in your bedroom. Give your pup a cozy, warm bed – your pup will feel safer in a bed with sides. You might cover the crate so it is more den-like and your pup feels hidden. When your pup has all of the above, most pups will cry no longer than 15 minutes and then settle into sleep.

When bringing a new puppy home, please understand that a dog rarely responds with human motivation. You pup isn't spoiled or bad, she is trying to save her life in the way that her kind has done for thousands and thousands of years. A dog that has "an accident" when left alone isn't being spiteful or resentful, he is anxious and afraid. That is what caused the accident to happen. A dog is a pack animal, a social creature. They are willing to love us unconditionally and leave their natural world to be in ours. A dog's greatest need is to be with you, his pack and his family.

Imagine the world through your new puppy's eyes. All she has ever known is life with Mom and her litter. They were her source of food, warmth, play, and protection. Relationship, for a pup, is survival. Now, all she has is you. Be kind. Be patient. Imagine what it is like to have everything in your world change in a day. Dogs of any age need 3 days to adjust to a new environment. Many won't eat or drink during that time. After 2 weeks in a new home, your dog will begin to "be himself" and feel at home.

Love, time, care and patience - your new baby will love you, care for you, protect you and accept you just as you are. We ask that you do the same for your new puppy.