

Crate Training Quick Reference



Step 1:

Introduction

Place the crate in a quiet part of the house. Encourage your puppy to check out the crate. Reward your puppy when they go near or check out their crate. Toss treats into the crate, reward if they step inside.

Step 2:

Meal Time

Use meal time to create a positive experience in the crate. Feed your dog meals and treats in the crate with the crate door closed. As soon as meals or treats are consumed allow your dog to go play.

Step 3

Nap Time

Make sure your dog is well exercised before putting them in their crate. Never put your dog in the crate when they are full of energy. When you start to see your dog getting sleepy put them in their crate.

Step 4

Leaving Your Dog

Start leaving your dog in their crate for short periods of time and gradually add more time as they get more comfortable with their crate. Leaving them too long too soon will make crate training unsuccessful.

Do's

- Use the crate to help with potty training
- Keep your dog in a crate when you can't supervise them
- Use the crate when traveling with your dog (even to the Vet's office and Groomer)
- Use the crate for nap/sleep time
- Use the crate for downtime when your dog is overstimulated or getting into mischief frequently
- Give your dog bones to chew on inside their crate
- make sure your crate is securely closed when you leave

Don'ts

- Never use the crate as punishment "bad dog, get in your crate"...slam the door
- Never leave your dog in the crate for extremely long periods of time. (Adult dogs should not be left in a crate for more than 8 hours at a time)
- Never leave soft stuffed toys that can easily be chewed, shredded or ingested inside the crate
- never leave collars or harnesses on your dog while they are in the crate (collars/harnesses have become caught on the crate walls and caused serious injury to dogs struggling to get free)
- Never force a dog into a crate

Dogs naturally seek out a safe quiet place to rest and feel safe. Providing this secure space will keep them from getting into trouble. Crate training can take a couple of days to a couple of weeks. Make sure to always make crate training fun, upbeat and positive, never negative.