

# Crate Training 101

*A crate is a multi-purpose training tool that paves the way for a well-behaved dog and a calm house*

## Why Crate Train?

- 🐾 Creates a safe haven during stressful times
- 🐾 Housetrains your dog in less time
- 🐾 Teaches puppies to chew on appropriate toys available
- 🐾 Pets are prepared for travel
- 🛑 Never use the crate as a punishment for bad behavior.
- 🛑 Do not use a crate as a long-term place to "store" your dog for hours and hours.
- 🛑 Puppies don't have bladder control. Do not leave a puppy for more than **1 hour for every month of age**, and no puppy or adult dog should be crated for longer than **4 hours** ideally.
- 🛑 Do not leave your dog's collar on when she is crated. The collar can catch on the metal grating and injure your dog.

*Crate Expectations!*



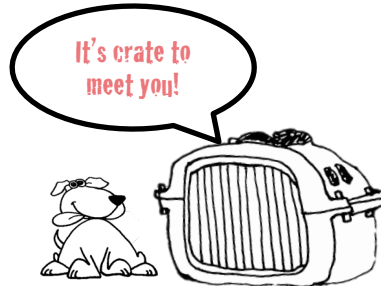
## Why does Crate Training Work?

In the wild, dogs naturally seek out dens for sleeping quarters. Presumably this is because they are closed with only one entrance, giving the dog a sense of security. Dogs instinctively do not like to soil in their dens and will go outside to eliminate. Crating your dog is simply using her instinct not to soil in her den, allowing you to gradually teach her that your whole house is her "den" and to only eliminate outside. Some people feel apprehensive about crating their dog, thinking that it is mean and that their dog won't like it. However, since dogs seek out dens on their own, a crate is both natural and comforting to a dog.

## How to Crate Train Your Dog

### Step 1: Introduce the Crate

- ✓ Place the crate in a quiet corner of a commonly used room
- ✓ Put soft bedding inside with a few safe chew toys
- ✓ Sit near the crate and call to your dog in a happy tone
- ✓ Offer treats and praise when she comes near the crate



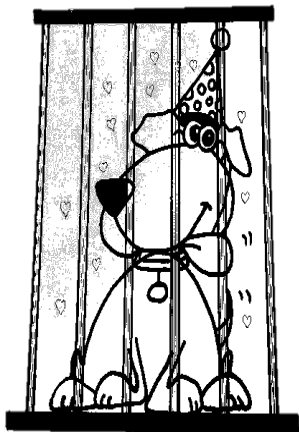
### Step 3: Closing the Door

- ✓ Once your dog is comfortable going in and out, ask her to go in by command, and toss a few tiny treats into the crate
- ✓ Close the door behind her. Slowly open the door, closing it all the way if your dog tries to bolt
- ✓ When she can stand inside the crate and not break for the exit, give a release command "okay" or "release" and encourage her to come out, but do not praise or reward with treats
- ✓ Repeat. Slowly work up to closing the door for up to 30 minutes while you are close by

### Step 2: Stepping inside the "Party Room"

- ✓ Gradually work up to asking her to step inside, using treats as rewards
- ✓ Every time she goes in, give her something that will knock her socks off: a stuffed Kong, bully stick, or other delicious long-lasting snack
- ✓ As soon as she comes out, take the snack away. Your dog will soon learn that if she wants her wonderful snack, she needs to eat it in the party room!
- ✓ Add a command, like "crate" or "kennel." Keep it simple and consistent.

*Party Time!*



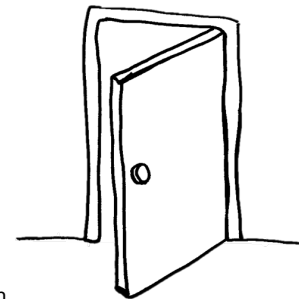
### Step 4: Meals & Nap Time

- ✓ Begin to feed all meals inside the crate with the door closed
- ✓ She may begin retreating to her crate for naps



### Step 5: Leaving the Room

- ✓ Ask your dog to go in the crate and close the door. Leave the room for a few seconds and return
- ✓ Ignore any excitement and whining
- ✓ Once your dog is calm, let her out and praise for good behavior
- ✓ Work up to leaving the room for 1 hour+ at a time



### Step 6: Leaving the House

- ✓ Calmly direct your dog to her crate
- ✓ Leave the house for a few minutes, working up to longer absences
- ✓ When you return, wait for your dog's excitement to dissipate
- ✓ Ignore any whining and once your dog is calm, let her out to greet you

## What Size Crate Do I Need?

18-22 in.

### Extra Small

Yorkshire Terriers, Maltese, Chihuahuas, other toy breeds



24 in.

### Small

Pugs, Miniature Dachshunds, Shih Tzu, Pomeranian

30 in.

### Medium

French Bulldogs, Dachshunds, Scottish Terriers, Beagle, Chow Chow



36 in.

### Intermediate

Bulldogs, Bull Terriers, Beagles, Cattle dogs

42 in.

### Large

Boxers, Border Collies, Dalmatians, Poodles, Retrievers

48+ in.

### Extra Large

Akitas, Rottweilers, Huskies, Collies, Malamutes, Great Danes, Bloodhounds, Doberman Pinschers, German Shepherds, Newfoundlands

