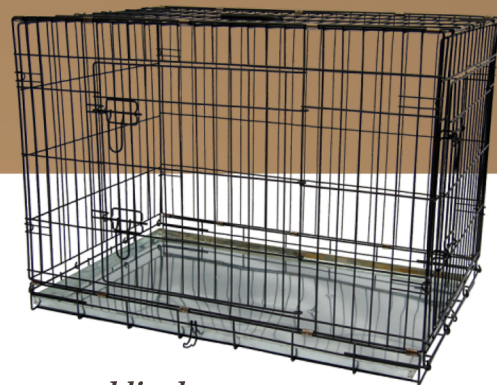


Crate training



Crate Training Puppies – Step by Step Introduction to the Crate

Choose the right crate size – big enough for the puppy to stand, turn, and lie down, but not too large to encourage soiling.

Make the crate inviting – soft bedding, a blanket, or a safe toy inside.

Keep the door open at first so the puppy can explore freely.

Place the crate in a quiet, but not isolated, part of the home (like near the family area).

Getting the Puppy Comfortable

Feed meals inside the crate to create a positive association.

Use treats, toys, or a stuffed Kong to encourage entering.

Start with short sessions – a few minutes with the door closed, gradually increasing time.

Always end crate time on a positive note – release them calmly, not when they are whining.

Building a Routine

Use the crate for naps, nighttime sleep, and short absences.

Take the puppy outside immediately after crate time for potty breaks.

Never leave a young puppy crated too long – general rule:

8–10 weeks: up to 1 hour

11–14 weeks: up to 2 hours

15–16 weeks: up to 3 hours

Over 6 months: up to 4–6 hours (gradually)

Maintain consistency – same bedtime, potty, and crate routine daily.

Managing Challenges

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Ignore whining unless you're sure they need to go potty; responding too quickly can reinforce the behavior.

reinforce the behavior.

Never use the crate as punishment – it should always be a safe, positive space.

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If the puppy soils in the crate, it may be too large or they were left inside too long.

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Introduce travel crates early so the puppy gets used to car trips calmly.



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Benefits of Crate Training for All Dogs

House Training & Cleanliness

Dogs instinctively avoid soiling where they sleep, making potty training easier.

Helps prevent destructive chewing and accidents when unsupervised.

Safety & Security

Provides a safe den-like environment where dogs feel secure and relaxed.

Prevents injury or ingestion of harmful objects when left alone.

Helps dogs cope better with travel, vet visits, and boarding.

Behavioral Benefits

Reduces separation anxiety when introduced positively.

Establishes boundaries, helping create calmer and better-mannered dogs.

Encourages self-soothing and independent downtime.

Convenience for Owners

Makes car rides and travel less stressful and safer.

Simplifies management in multi-pet households.

Provides a secure place for rest during gatherings, renovations, or stressful events (fireworks, storms).



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