

Crate Training Your Adult Dog

Make the Crate Great!

Dogs should view their crate as a safe, happy place. Even if you don't crate them on a regular basis, it is important that they learn to be comfortable in a crate when they are at a vet clinic, boarding facility, or groomer.



Begin with a high value chew treat, such as a food-stuffed rubber toy or a bully stick, as well as pieces of individual treats.

1. Entice your dog with the chew treat to build up their desire, then place the treat in the back of the crate. Close the door with the dog outside the crate for 10-15 seconds. Open the door and let the dog in to get their treat.
2. Close and latch the door, immediately toss 3-4 individual treats in the back of the crate, then open the door right away.

3. If your dog exits, toss a treat away from the crate and pick up the chew treat and repeat Step 1-2. If your dog stays inside the crate, toss 3-4 treats into the back of the crate and, close the door. Count to 5, toss a few treats into the back of the crate and open the door. Repeat the process, slowly adding time to your count.

4. Once you can count to 20 with your dog comfortable in their crate, begin to take a step or two away from the crate as you count.

Work in short sessions. Slowly build the amount of time your dog spends in the crate.

Make the crate comfortable with a bed, if your dog won't chew it. To prevent boredom, give a special treat such as a long-lasting chew or puzzle toy that your dog only gets while in the crate—always pick up the treat when your dog leaves the crate.

Show your dog what a happy place their crate can be!

**Written by: Kristi D. Jones, Mind Your Manners Pet Training, LLC
CPDT-KA, CBCC-KA**

