



Crate training

Used properly, a crate is an effective short-term tool for managing and training your dog. If you train your dog to be content in a crate, you'll provide a safe, cozy place that she can call her own and sleep in at night. It also gives you a safe way to transport your dog and travel with her to motels, to friends' homes, when on vacation, etc. Crates are especially helpful when introducing a new dog into your household. You can also use a crate to efficiently house train your dog and prevent her from being destructive.

Crates can be easily misused, however. They're best used as a relatively short-term management tool, not as a lifetime pattern of housing. Your goal should be to work on any behavior problems and train your dog so that it's not necessary to crate her 8 to 10 hours every weekday throughout her life.

What Size Crate Should I Buy?

<p>For extra small dogs like Yorkshire Terriers, Maltese, Papillons and other toy breeds.</p> <p>18 - 22 in. Extra Small</p> 	<p>For small dogs like Pugs, Shih Tzus, Miniature Dachshunds and other small or miniature breeds.</p> <p>24 in. Small</p> 
<p>For medium-sized dogs like French Bulldogs, Dachshunds, Scottish Terriers and other medium breeds.</p> <p>30 in. Medium</p> 	<p>For intermediate dogs like Bulldogs, Bull Terriers, Beagles, Cattle dogs and similar breeds.</p> <p>36 in. Intermediate</p> 
<p>For large dogs like Boxers, Border Collies, Dalmations, Poodles, Retrievers and similar breeds.</p> <p>42 in. Large</p> 	<p>For extra large breeds like Akitas, Rottweilers, Huskies, Collies, Malamutes, and other extra large breeds.</p> <p>48+ in. Extra Large</p> 

This is only intended as a guide. Your dog may require a larger or smaller crate than listed above.

Fitting Tip: Make sure your dog can stand up, turn around in, and lay down in their crate.

TRA fish & pet

Step 1 & 2: Introduce the crate

- Put a soft blanket, towel or crate pad in the crate. Make sure it is absorbent and easy to wash for a dog that's not perfected potty training.
- To your puppy, the crate is just a piece of furniture in the room. They may naturally investigate the new "room" and begin sleeping in it on their own. If not, sit by the crate and talk in a soothing tone and call them over to you.
- Use small training treats to lure your puppy to come near the crate. Continue dropping small training treats to lure your puppy inside the crate. Do not force them into the crate
- Once they have entered of their own free will, praise them gratuitously. Continue this process every few hours so the crate becomes a happy place!

Add a command

- Now that your puppy is happy in the crate and eating his meals there, add a command word or phrase that you'll say each time you want them to go in the crate. The command should be simple and kept consistent by all members of your family, try using "crate" or "go to your crate".

Step 3: Closing the door

- Once your puppy is happily entering and exiting the crate on his own, progress to closing the door for a few seconds. Lure them into the crate with treats, close the door for just a few seconds, praise them for remaining calm and open the door to give them another treat
- Repeat this step as long as your puppy is interested and not distressed by the door being closed. Very gradually increase the amount of time the door is closed.
- Do not reward whining, if they are beginning to whine while the door is closed, you may have moved too fast for their comfort level.
- Repeat every few hours until your puppy is happily sitting in the crate for a few minutes at a time.