



PUPPY



ADULT



# Crate Training Guide

for your Yours Droolly Crate



**Crate Training  
Your Puppy &  
Adult Dog**

STEP BY STEP GUIDE

**Crate Toilet  
Training**

**Safety**

**Helpful Tips for  
Success**

DOS AND DON'TS



Your puppy's crate is one of the most important purchases you can make. It is their 'den' inside your home.

## **Dogs Feel Safe in Their Den**

In the wild, dogs naturally live in dens. Their natural instincts drive them to find a small space to sleep and find warmth and security.

Most dogs don't want to be near their own waste and make an extra effort to keep their space clean and dry, making an excellent tool for toilet training.

Don't be surprised if while company visits, during a bad storm, or any other uncomfortable activity.

Your dog will see their new Crate as their sanctuary, safe-zone, life-long home, and den.



# Crate Training Your Puppy

Use the divider panel provided to make your puppy's space smaller. The space you allow them should be just sufficient for them to comfortably lie down, and turn around. As your puppy grows, move the divider panel back to allow them more space.

## STEP 1

### *Introduce your puppy to the crate*

Make the introduction a positive and rewarding experience. Place the crate in an area where the family spends a lot of time. Set up the crate so that it is cozy and inviting. Bed, blanket or towel.

Leave the door open and begin to play with your puppy in close proximity to the crate, while giving them plenty of praise and maybe even a treat or two.

Over several minutes begin to toss treats and/or toys just inside the crate door and allow them to retrieve them.

Continue tossing treats into the crate until your puppy will walk calmly all the way into the crate to get the food. (This may take minutes or several days).

**HINT:** When your puppy starts getting sleepy. Place them inside the crate to rest.



## Crate Training Your Adult Dog

Follow the same step as for introducing a puppy to a new crate. Remember to use plenty of verbal praise, toys and treats so they too can quickly identify their crate as their den and place of security.

## STEP 2

### *Feed your puppy his meals in the crate*

Begin feeding them their regular meals near the crate. This will create a pleasant association with the crate.

If your puppy is readily entering the crate when you begin Step 2, place the food dish all the way at the back of the crate. If they remain reluctant to enter the crate, put the dish only as far inside as they will go without becoming fearful. Each time you feed them, place the dish a little further back in the crate.

Once your puppy is standing comfortably in the crate to eat meals, you can close the door. The first time you do this, open the door as soon as they finish. With each successive feeding, leave the door closed a few minutes longer, until they're staying in the crate for approximately ten minutes after eating. After this length time they may need a toilet break.

If they do whine or cry in the crate, don't let them out until they stop. You can do this by sitting by the crate and talking to them in a soothing voice. Otherwise, they'll learn that the way to get out of the crate is to whine, so they'll keep doing it.

While they're not in the crate, always keep the door open and bed inside. When they go inside for a toy or a nap, reassure and praise them.



**NEVER** force your puppy to go inside the crate. **ALWAYS** praise him when he goes inside on his own.

It is extremely important to remember to never scold, punish or be angry with your puppy while he is inside his crate. This is his "safe haven" and he must understand that when he is inside his crate, no harm will ever come to him.



## STEP 3

### **Lengthening the crating period**

Over time, and depending on your puppy's age, the time they spend confined in their crate can be lengthened. It is best to start for short time periods while you're home.

Call them over to the crate and give him a treat.

Give a command to enter, such as "kennel." Encourage them by pointing to the inside of the crate with a treat in your hand.

After your puppy enters the crate, praise them, give them the treat, and close the door.

Sit quietly near the crate for five to ten minutes, and then go into another room for a few minutes. Return, sit quietly again for a short time, and then let them out of the crate.

Repeat this process several times a day, gradually increasing the length of time you leave them in the crate and the length of time you're out of his sight.

Once your puppy will stay quietly in the crate for about 30 minutes with you mostly out of sight, you can begin leaving them crated when you're gone for short time periods and/or letting them sleep there at night. This may take several days or several weeks.

Puppies under six months of age shouldn't stay in a crate for more than 2-3 hours at a time. They can't control their bladders and bowels for that long.

At this point, you have completed crate training and your puppy is secure in his new home. A crate should never be overused. Puppies need plenty of exercise to be healthy and need to socialize with their family. Whenever possible, leave the crate door open and allow your puppy to be part of your pack (family).



## STEP 4

### **Crate your puppy at night**

Put your puppy in the crate using your regular command and a tasty Yours Droolly treat.

Puppies often need to go outside to urinate during the night, be sure you can hear your puppy when he whines to be let outside.

It may be a good idea to put the crate in your bedroom or nearby hallway. Time spent with your puppy—even sleep time—is a chance to strengthen the bond between you and your pet.



### **Whining**

If your puppy begins whining in the crate, the best thing to do is ignore it. However, remember that any sort of interaction, positive or negative, will be a 'reward' to your puppy, so ignoring the whining is best. However, make sure that you reward the dog appropriately when they have settled and are quiet. Using a towel or sheet to cover the crate if the whining persists can also help settle them.

A young puppy, whining may be because they need to relieve themselves, so quietly take it out to the toilet on a lead, making sure not to engage play. Place them back into the crate once they have gone to the toilet. Eventually you will be able to distinguish between a cry for attention and a cry for a toilet break.





## Crate Toilet Training

Puppies need to relieve themselves at regular intervals after these activities:

- Resting
- Playing
- Training
- Feeding

When your puppy is very young, they will need to be toileted though the night (about every 4 hours) until they are 4-5 months old. So, if your puppy cries, they may need a bathroom break!

### Create a schedule

Establish regular potty times:

- After feeding
- Before bedtime
- First thing in the morning
- Awaking from naps

Take your puppy outside to where you want them to go. As with any house training, once they urinate, give them plenty of praise and affection.

If for some reason he does mess his crate while inside, do not scold them. Immediately take him outside for a bathroom break. Clean the crate and set it back up the way it was.

Over time (several days), the need to carry them out will also diminish and they should be able to walk outside without urinating in the house.

## Crate Placement

Make sure the crate is in a climate controlled area of your home and avoid areas that get direct sunlight or cool drafts.

If you are still working on potty training, have your crate near the door to help prevent accidents.

Consider putting your crate in a well populated area of your home. Dogs are social and want to be a part of the family.

Avoid locations where the dog can see outside of the home and practice unwanted behaviours like window barking.



## Helpful Tips for Success



### NEVER

Lock one latch on the crate or pen while leaving the other one unlatched, as this is very dangerous to your puppy and could result in damaging or breaking a leg. Scold or punish your dog while inside their crate.

Force your dog into their crate.

Make your dog's exit from their crate an exciting event. Be calm and relaxed when letting them out.

Allow children or guests to taunt or tease your dog while they are inside their crate.

Overuse your dog's crate – they need exercise and to be part of the family.

### SOMETIMES

Close your dog in their crate while you are in the room with them, to help them feel secure.

### ALWAYS

Keep the crate door open when your dog is not confined, allowing them access to their home.

Praise your dog when they voluntarily go inside their crate.

Provide a clean, comfortable bed or blanket inside their crate.

When leaving your dog inside the crate, make a casual exit, so that it is not a big deal.

Provide toys or chews inside the crate, so that your dog does not get bored.

**NEVER** use the crate as a punishment and never discipline your dog whilst in the crate. It is their place of safety and security and should not be associated with any negative experiences.

## Safety

Do not put your dog in a crate that is too small for them.

Do not leave cords, appliances, or anything near the crate.

Always remove your dogs collar before crating.

**masterpet**®

™ © Masterpet Corporation Limited

Made in China for:

Masterpet Corporation Ltd

143 Hutt Park Road, Gracefield, Lower Hutt, NZ

2/31 Topham Rd, Smeaton Grange, NSW 2567, AUS

Customer Service: (NZ) 0800 738 546,

(Aus) 1300 651 111

[www.masterpet.com](http://www.masterpet.com)