

Crate Training 101



You have a new dog and you wanted to make the dog comfortable in the new crate, then you come home and find this. Does this mean that your dog is not happy in the crate? Or could it be boredom. Or a learned behavior. Now what!



I would recommend removing the bed. Adding appropriate interactive toys to keep your dog occupied while in the crate.

Stuffed shin bones
Size Appropriate Kong
Stuff a Ball
Cheese Log
Bully Sticks



Working in the beginning with a clean clutter free crate can lead to a wonderful relationship for your canine with their crate. View it as their bedroom, their personal space, their comfort zone when they are unsure or need a break from confusion and noise.

Equipment needed

Size appropriate crate (Dog should be able Stand, turn around and lay down.

Treats mixed with dog food. 100-150 small pieces

1. Open crate door and drop four or five treats/dog food mix into the crate.
2. Step back and allow your dog to investigate. If the dog walks towards the crate use your marker word, (I use YES) and toss an additional treat into the crate. Do not block the doorway.
3. If your dog put front feet into the crate or reaches for the treats, as the dog is eating them say yes and toss a few more treats into the crate and step away from the crate.
4. Repeat this until your dog is willing stepping into the crate as you approach it.
5. Once the dog is in the crate eating treat use your release cue, (I use OK) to let your dog know they can come out and there is not additional food for the action of coming out. It is a choice.

Take a break and allow the dog to begin to investigate the crate without saying anything, if the dog gets in the crate say yes and toss treats into the crate, then release the dog immediately with OK.

As your dog gets comfortable with going into the crate try to step towards the crate and drop treats through the top of the crate then release with OK and stop feeding.

Once your dog is in the crate and not stressed close the door for a few seconds while feeding through the top of the crate, then open the door and release the dog with OK. Add time and distance as the dog can take the pressure without showing signs of stress. Then you can add appropriate toys to keep the dog occupied.