

## How to Crate Train

Left to their plans, young puppies can get in a lot of difficulties, from soiling the floor to chewing your favorite things. That's why it's essential to start training early and keep a close eye on them, especially when they're still learning what's required of them. And the best way to do that is to crate train.



## Why Should You Crate Train Your Dog?

First of all, crate training is not harsh. Despite what you may have been told or read online, breeders and veterinarians recommend using a crate for your dog from a young age.

For many years, dogs in the wild have been using a "den" to feel safe and sheltered while resting. If you provide your dog, a den can help them feel more protected, and you know exactly where they are. Crating is a big help for potty training puppies is also handy for potty-training while you're not keeping a close eye on them. Sometimes dogs have little issue with sneaking into another room of the house to go if they're not yet fully potty trained.

## Choosing a Crate

Choose a crate that is large enough for your dog to stand up, lie down, and turn around. Puppy's crate will have to grow as they do, so buy a crate that is the correct size for your dog's expected growth and use a divider to make the crate smaller for the time being. Many wire crates available at pet-supply stores include dividers. The travel crates do not. A crate that's too small will be uncomfortable for your dog,

## How to Teach Your dog to Love the Crate

The most critical part of crate training is making sure your dog always associates it with a positive experience. Start by lining it with blankets or fluffy towels and place a few favorite toys inside to make it snug. Offer treats when he goes inside and distract with a toy. Don't close the door, just keep it open, so your dog learns to go in and out without being forced.

After your dog gets used to going into the crate you can close the door for a minute or so while you sit right there with them. You can even feed treats through the openings to keep the experience positive. As you are getting puppy used to the door being closed, you can add a minute or two each crate training session. Once your puppy can stay inside with the door close for 10 minutes or so, start leaving the room without making a fuss. Just get up and go.

## **Puppies!**

Every time you take your puppy out of the crate, take them outside so they can eliminate. They will get used to the idea that potty time comes after crate time. Remember to reward your puppy after they go the potty outside. You can refer to our potty-training guide for more help.

When you are ready to leave your puppy for prolonged periods, work in 10-minute increments and work up to extended periods.

If you want to crate your puppy at nighttime, remember most puppies should be able to sleep through the night without a potty break by four months of age.

## **What Not to Do When Crate Training**

They need several bathroom breaks, as well as play and feeding times. Even though they won't want to dirty their sleeping area, they just might if they are crated for very long times. And if they do, it is because his owner has not done their duty, not because the dog has failed. If you can't be at home to let your dog out, find a family member, neighbor, or pet sitter to let your dog out.

The general rule is for every month of age, equals about 1 hour they can hold their bladder. Every dog is different, so this not a strict rule. Anything longer than 8 hours, and you do need someone to give your dog a potty break!

## **Crates Are Not for Punishment or Time Out**

Your dog should see their crate as their "room". It's a place for only happy peaceful things happen.

## **Don't Lose Your Patience**

Learning takes time. If you follow these suggestions and are consistent, Your dog will learn to love their crate!

Wagging Tails Training  
925-230-9063  
waggingtailstraining.ca@gmail.com

