

# CRATE TRAINING YOUR SHELTER DOG:

## CLASS TIPS FOR A HAPPY HOME



## START WITH TREATS

Begin by tossing treats near the front of the crate. Once your dog feels comfortable stepping inside, toss treats to the back. Gradually, as your dog becomes more comfortable walking in and out, close the door for a few seconds. Let them out and repeat, increasing the time the door is closed. Keep it fun!

## SHORT PERIODS AT HOME

While your dog is getting used to the crate, put them in for short periods even when you're at home. Don't forget to place a toy in the crate with them to keep them entertained and comfortable.

## HOUSE TRAINING 101

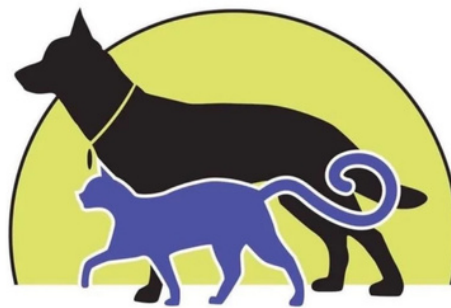
Always let your dog out in the yard immediately after they come out of the crate. This reinforces house training and helps establish a routine.

## CALM EXITS

Make sure your dog is calm (sitting is best) when you open the crate door. This increases self-control, especially in puppies, and helps prevent overly excited behavior.

## WATER SUPPLY

Attach a small water container to the side of the crate to ensure your dog stays hydrated without the risk of spills.



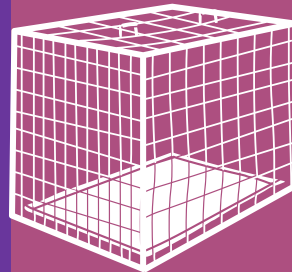
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## TOYS AND TREATS

Always give your dog a toy, hard bone, or treat when they're in the crate. Toys stuffed with treats and peanut butter are particularly effective for keeping your dog entertained.

## CRATE GAMES

Make the crate a fun place by playing games. Hold your dog a few feet from the crate, give them a "Ready, Ready, Ready" cue, and let them go. Run with them toward the crate and reward them with a treat if they go inside. This makes the crate an enjoyable activity.



## ROTATE TOYS

Rotate the toys you put in the crate and place the crate toys out in the open for playtime. This helps your dog understand what belongs to them and what belongs to you.

## TIME LIMITS FOR PUPPIES

The suggested maximum time a puppy should spend in a crate is one hour plus their age in months. Limit crate time during the first week to help your puppy adjust gradually.

## NEVER USE AS PUNISHMENT

Never use the crate as a form of punishment. The crate should always be associated with positive experiences and a sense of security.

## CONSISTENCY IS KEY

Be consistent with crate training. Regular practice and positive reinforcement will help your dog feel safe and comfortable in their crate, making it a valuable tool for training and relaxation.