Prevention – Crate Desensitization

Practice 2 times a day and when your dog is comfortable add to daily living.

Tips for Initial Training:

- Calm and relaxed dog
- Use high value treats and toys
- Short 1 to 5 minute sessions

Key Points:

- Treat for going into the crate
- Hide treats, bully sticks, fun toy's in the crate for your dog to wander in to find
- Keep safe toys in the crate and alternate
- Use kongs or other brainwork safe objects when in the crate
- Keep the crate in a common area
- Play soothing classical music
- Never punish in a crate
- If using the crate for management, always give your dog something to do in the crate

Steps 1: Create a want to get into the crate:

- Show your dog treats in a bowl
- Place the treats in the crate
- Close the door with your dog outside the crate
- Let your dog sniff and show interest in getting into the crate
- Open and let your dog into the crate
- Keep the door open
- As your dog finishes drop more pieces in back of the crate
- As your dog finishes say "free or OK" and welcome your dog out
- Repeat a few times to create a want to be in the crate
- Begin adding the word "load-up," "crate" or other as your dog moves into the crate after the food bowl
- *As you increase the time 1 to 5 minutes begin rewarding heavily for a sit or down.

Step 2: Start playing crate games:

- In a happy tone, toss lots of treats in the crate to create your dog wanting to run into the crate while saying "crate" in a happy tone.
- Repeat and repeat some more.
- After a few sessions of a happy dog in the crate begin waiting for a sit or down and toss more into the crate.
- After your dog begins to settle in the crate begin to close the door and give lots of treats.
- Begin to move away from the crate. Click as your away and go back to treat. Repeat outside the room.
- Goal is to make the crate a highly rewarding experience.

Step 3: Add duration gradually