
CRATE TRAINING

Benefits of Crate Training

Your dog may need to be crated for the following reasons:

- House Training – a puppy confined in a crate and taken out regularly for toilet breaks will have fewer accidents than a puppy that is given free run of the house.
- Visits to the vet and groomers usually involves your dog being put in a cage – dogs who are crate trained will adapt better to the confinement.
- Can aid in management during recovery from medical procedures e.g., restricting dog's movement after surgery or injury.
- Travel – your dog will be much less stressed by the journey if they travel in a familiar crate.
- The crate can become a safe place for your dog to retreat to if they are feeling stressed or need a break from human interaction.
- Useful tool in managing children and dogs.

Crates are not storage units for dogs and are suitable for short-term confinement only. If confining your dog to a crate, it is necessary, for the emotional and physical wellbeing of your dog, that they are given breaks outside of the crate and given times for toilet breaks. Excessive confinement will result in hyperactivity. Provide physical and mental exercise when your dog is out of the crate such as training, play or taking them for a walk.

Choosing a Crate

The crate should be large enough for the dog to stand up, stretch out and turn around in. Wire or plastic crates are the two most popular types of crates. Wire crates provide good ventilation and are good for a dog which likes to see what is going on around them. Some dogs prefer a crate with solid walls as it provides more security. A plastic crate with solid walls or putting a sheet over a wire crate may be better for these dogs. If you intend to travel with your dog, then choose an airline approved crate.

Teach your dog to love their crate:

- Dogs are social animals therefore an ideal location for a crate is in a room that the family frequents, such as the living room, kitchen, or bedroom. If the crate is in an unused area of the house, the dog is less likely to enjoy spending time in the crate.
- Reward your dog by offering treats whenever they enter the crate.
- A food stuffed toy (i.e., Kong) will entertain your dog for longer.
- Hide treats daily in the crate for your dog to find.
- Feed your dog meals in the crate.
- ***Never send your dog to the crate as punishment!***