

CRATE TRAINING

Your guide to help your non-fearful dog be comfortable in a crate with the door closed, up to 2 hours



When to move to the next step? Move to a more difficult step when your dog is totally comfortable at the current step. "Comfortable" = no continuous whining or crying. Occasional whining/fussing is ok.

When to drop back to an easier step? If your dog panics, immediately let them out of the pen & drop back 2 steps.

If your dog is almost continuously crying or whining, wait for a brief (1 second) moment of quiet, then return & drop back to an easier step.

STEP	What You Do
1	Leave crate door open and, randomly throughout the day, drop treats at the back of the crate for dog to discover
2	Lure dog into crate, feed at the back (toss treat), let dog exit at will
3	Lure dog into crate, and continue flow of treats (~1 second apart), as long as dog stays in crate. Let dog exit at will.
4	Hand signal dog into crate, and continue flow of treats (~1 second apart), as long as dog stays in crate. Let dog exit at will.
5	Hand signal dog into crate, and continue flow of treats (~2 seconds apart), as long as dog stays in crate. Let dog exit at will.
6	Hand signal dog into crate, move door half closed, feed, let dog exit.
7	Hand signal dog into crate, close door, feed, open door and let dog exit.
8	Hand signal dog into crate, close door for 2 seconds, feed, open door and let dog exit.
9	Hand signal dog into crate, close door for 3 seconds, feed, open door and let dog exit.

STEP	What You Do
10	Hand signal dog into crate, close door for 5 seconds, feed, open door and let dog exit.
11	Hand signal dog into crate, close door for 10 seconds, feed, open door and let dog exit.
12	Make crate very comfortable with bedding, hand signal dog into crate, give stuffed Kong or special chew, close door, and hang out next to crate reading or watching TV for 10 minutes, dropping bonus treats in every 20-30 seconds
13	Repeat step 12 at a different time (after several hours or overnight break) but now occasionally get up and leave the room, returning within a few seconds.
14	Repeat at a different time but now train for total of 30 minutes returning every few minutes to feed and then leave again.
15	Repeat at a different time but now train for total of 1 hour returning every few minutes to feed and then leave again.
16	Repeat at a different time but now train for total of 2 hours returning every 5-10 minutes to feed and then leave again.
17	Leave dog in crate with door closed with a stuffed Kong or special chew while you go about normal activities around the house for 30 minutes.
18	Leave dog in crate with door closed with a stuffed Kong or special chew while you leave the house (with a camera monitoring) for 30 minutes.
19	Repeat for 1 hour departure
20	Repeat for 2 hour departure