

CRATE- TRAINING MUSTS

SIZE MATTERS

Choose a crate large enough for your adult dog to comfortably stand up, turn around and lie down. But remember that too much room defeats the purpose of a den, plus may result in more potty accidents.

LOCATION. LOCATION. LOCATION.

The ideal spot for a crate is out of direct sunlight, and in the same place every day (instead of moving it from room to room).

GOOD TO GROW

Looking for a crate that grows with your dog? Our crates include an adjustable puppy divider to manage the space as your dog grows.



THE NAKED TRUTH

For safety, always remove all collars, harnesses, clothes and tags while your dog is in the crate.

WHAT'S UNDERFOOT?

Line the crate with a comfortable mat for warmth and joint support. Inspect both mat and pan regularly if your dog is a chewer.

SAFETY FIRST.

Double check all locks and security hooks on the crate door(s) to be sure they are fully engaged and secured before leaving your dog alone. Check the entire crate frequently and replace if any part becomes damaged.



you & me **CRATE**

TRAINING GUIDE

A guide to crate training and safety

For additional training tips and advice, visit your favorite Petco or Unleashed store and ask an Animal Care Specialist, trainer or store partner for help. Most store locations hold regular training classes designed to complement the crate learning you do at home.

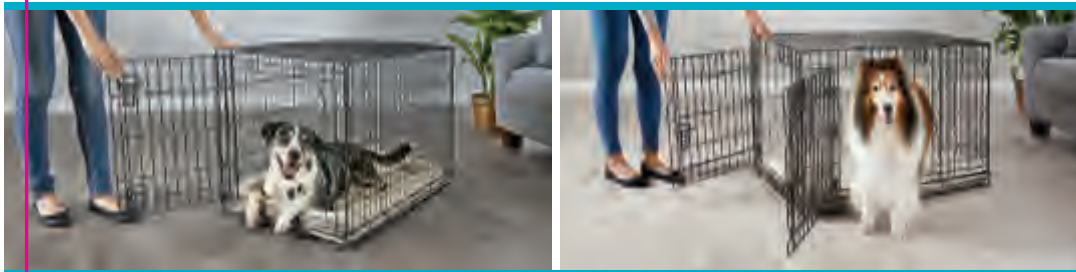
Additionally, visit [petco.com](https://www.petco.com) to learn more or call **888-824-7257**

A Den for Your Dog

Through your dog's eyes, a crate is exactly the type of safe space he instinctively craves. Think of it as the study, man-cave or sanctuary we humans retreat to in order to relax, regroup and de-stress. By providing a crate, you're giving your dog the privilege to a special spot of his very own for safety and rest.

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DOG

When dog meets crate, a beautiful friendship begins. Here's how to manage the introduction right.



Baby steps.

Be cool! Introduce the crate into your home without fanfare by simply placing it in your preferred location with the open door, which will likely entice your dog inside. (If he needs some coaxing, placing treats in the crate sweetens the deal.) Each time he goes inside the crate, give him plenty of praise and kisses!

Keep it positive.

Never use the crate as punishment or as a reprimand – all interactions with the crate must be positive, not forceful, with gentle encouragement for entering and exiting at all times.

Practice makes perfect.

Once your dog has checked out the crate, experiment with shutting the door for short amounts of time while you're at home together. Try tiring him out beforehand, such as with playtime or a long walk, and use behavior cues, such as, "Time for a nap!" and positive feedback (like sweet-talk or treats) for cooperating. If whining or barking occurs, wait until he quiets before calmly opening

the door —avoiding enthusiastic praise in this case so he doesn't see release as a reward.

It's go time!

After the introduction period, and with supervision, try leaving your dog in the crate for no longer than 30 minutes—again, after you've engaged in some vigorous play or walking, and after a good potty break. Remove all clothing before allowing pet to enter crate. Once inside the crate, remove collar, lead, harness and tags before securing the door. Re-apply the dog's collar, harness and tags before your dog exits the crate and take him out for a potty break right away, which creates a ritual dogs love and crave, as well as reinforces that potty-time is outside-time, only!

With a combination of gentle encouragement and firm routine, your dog will grow to love his crate—and you'll know he's safe and secure whenever you have to be apart. **And remember; never leave your dog unsupervised until he feels comfortable using his crate.**

HELPFUL TIPS

Follow these tips to create a perfect space of canine comfort for your dog—which can make your life easier, too!

Tip 1: **WATCH THE TIME.**

Don't leave a puppy crated more than one hour per month of age (for example, a 2-month-old pup should not be in a crate for more than two hours). And never leave a dog, regardless of age, in a crate for more than 8 hours.

Tip 2: **WATER YOU DOING?**

There's nothing like a cool drink while relaxing. Every day, place fresh water in a spill-free container or bowl (try a You & Me crate bowl or water bottle) in a spot that's easy for your dog to access. (Just remember to break for potty-time every 2 to 4 hours!)

Tip 3: **EXIT STRATEGY.**

If you don't plan on being home for a few hours, leave the crate open to an enclosed area (such as a bathroom or exercise pen) to give your dog room to stretch and play. This gives him the best of all worlds while keeping him safe.

Tip 4: **TOY TIME.**

With your vet's OK, provide your pup with crate toys to keep him company. (Some dogs prefer their favorite playthings stay only in the crate!) Make sure toys are sturdy

enough to withstand lots of unsupervised chewing and gnawing; you don't want anything that could become a choking or swallowing risk.

Tip 5: **GOT YOU COVERED.**

For greater den-like security or extra warmth, use a crate cover to create the perfect cozy cave. Use only when dog is fully trained to prevent him from pulling the cover inside the crate.

Tip 6: **CRY IT OUT.**

Dogs and puppies may whimper or howl the first few times they're crated at night. As long as he isn't in distress or hurt, don't succumb to the temptation to remove your dog from the crate. Instead, give him time to work through this necessary adjustment period; if he learns the crying works, it will never end.

Tip 7: **KEEP IT CLEAN.**

We all love a clean room, and your dog is no exception. Wash the crate mats regularly, and periodically hose down the crate itself, especially if your dog is a mud magnet. A clean space is a happy place! For pet safety, check the crate pan before each use and replace if cracked or chewed.