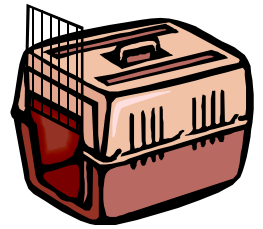


# Crate Training:

*Well worth the trouble*

*By: Scott Schiller*



Wondering how to begin crate training your puppy or dog or even whether you should?

Crate training gets a dog used to being in a crate, so that he or she can safely be left for hours at a time. Crate training can speed up potty training! But crate training isn't suitable for all dogs. Some dogs may become very upset and the dog may never overcome this. Dogs with separation anxiety may become more upset in a crate. An anxious dog can hurt himself in a crate, so use your best judgment. Crate training makes many training problems easier to solve. A dog who has been properly introduced to his crate considers it his own private haven and many dogs will go into their crates on their own when they just want to be alone.

**Important:** Always remove all collars and other equipment from the dog before putting him in his crate. He may get caught by the collar and panic.

## Benefits of Crate Training:

\*\* Crate training helps tremendously in potty training. Dogs usually will not soil in their haven.

\*\* Your dog can be confined when necessary, without undue wear & tear on your home.

\*\* Less stress when your dog goes to a boarding kennel or is hospitalized at a veterinarian's hospital.

\*\* Many dogs seek out their crates to relax or get away (their private haven).

Select a good location for the crate (or more than one location). Bedrooms are good at night. During the day position the crate near people. Either move the crate around or use multiple crates. Allow something soft (towel/blanket/bed) for your dog to lie on.

## Crate Training:

\*\* Tie open or remove the door. Let your dog sniff and examine the crate while the door is open.

\*\* Gradually make the crate interesting. Throw toys or treats in it. A *kong toy* or a hollow bone filled with peanut butter, cheese or milk bones can be used. Talk lovingly to him if he goes in. Pet him while he is in the crate.

\*\* When he is comfortable going in and out of the crate (this can take minutes or weeks), close the door while you are there. Once he accepts the closed door go elsewhere in your home. Gradually lengthen the time you are gone.

\*\* If he whines to get out, don't let him out and don't sweet talk him. You may let him out and sweet talk to him when he's not whining (*if you let him out while he is whining, you are teaching him that whining works!*).

\*\* Crate training is most effective when it isn't rushed. Pay attention to your dog's comfort and anxiety.

\*\* Exercise your dog before and after going in the crate. *Many behavior problems diminish with exercise.*

