

Crate Training

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How to Crate Train your Dog

First, purchase a crate that is the appropriate size for your dog. The dog should be able to stand up, turn around, and lay down comfortably without there being too much extra space.

Place the crate with an **open** door in an easily accessible area where the crate or your dog is not isolated from the family. Put a nice, extra-comfortable bed in it, and start to **FEED** her in it. Don't feed her anywhere else. Place the bowl of extra yummy food in the rear of the crate so she **has** to go in. She may resist at first and not eat, but trust me; she **WILL** eventually go in and eat.

Be sure that when it is treat time, she only gets treats in her crate also. Eventually, she will associate the crate with positive things and should go there to nap and relax. When this happens on a regular basis, you can close the door, but not all the way. Leave it cracked open. After time passes and she accepts that, close it all the way, but **don't latch it**. She will see she can push it open and find comfort in that. After this has been accomplished, you can begin latching the door while you are home and in the same room. Eventually, you will progress to leaving the room for short periods of time, increasing gradually to leaving for longer periods of time. Eventually, you can leave her in her crate and leave the house altogether.

Crate training is very important. You just never know when it might be a life-saver!