

Information Sheet – Crate Training

A crate is a great place to give your dog or puppy some well-earned calm time, feel safe and generally get away from it all.

A crate is also useful for toileting training puppies and young dogs, a short term confinement area for when you can't supervise your puppy and a wonderful management tool for multi dog households.

It's important to remember that a crate is not to be used as punishment, and equally important that you teach your dog to love their crate.



Here are our tips for making a crate work:

- Choose a crate that will work for your dog. We recommend wire crates for puppies or dogs that are likely to chew.
- Set your crate up in a quiet part of the house, but not completely out of the way. Your dog needs to feel like part of the family!
- Put a comfy mat or bed in the bottom of the crate
- Leave the door open for now!
- Sprinkle some treats or dry dog food into the crate and encourage your dog to go in and get them. If they are reluctant, just put the treats right at the front near the door so they don't have to reach in too far. Sprinkle the treats towards the back of the crate once your dog is happy to go in. Spend a few sessions a day doing this, and make it fun!
- Add a verbal cue! We like "Cubby", "House" and "Crate" (always say this enthusiastically).
- Feed your dog their dinner in the crate
- Repeat the above 2 steps, but just close the door for a second, then open it. This is getting your dog used to having the door closed behind them.
- It is important to always give your dog a choice to go in or come out. Never force them.
- From here, you just need to work on building this positive association.
- Close the door for longer, but only if your dog is comfortable.
- Crate training takes work!
- The reward is a dog that is happy to spend time in their crate and a lifesaver for you.

