



# Crate, Sweet Crate

## A Practical Guide for Crate-Training Your Pet

A crate serves as a modern dog den and can be the best tool for training your pet. It's a safe place where dogs instinctively feel secure and will avoid eliminating when possible. Before attempting to leave your puppy or dog alone in a crate, proper training is critical. Follow these training instructions and be careful not to rush the process.

A dog that is uncomfortable going into his crate may become panicked and could attempt to escape, potentially causing serious injury. Take the time now to properly crate train your dog and you'll ensure a lifetime of comfort, safety and convenience for both you and your pet.

### **Crate Train with Confidence**

Your dog should always associate his crate with a good feeling. Follow these steps and soon your dog will feel happy and secure in his crate "home." Keep in mind that the timeline and adjustment period will vary according to your dog's temperament.

**1.** Begin by leaving the crate door open. Toss in a tasty treat or favorite toy and have your dog retrieve it. Repeat successively up to five times. Repeat this same entire process several times a day for the next few days.

**2.** When your dog happily runs into the crate each time you open its door, begin to swing the door shut for a few seconds. Again, repeat this successively, several times a day.

**3.** Once your dog is comfortable inside the crate, toss in a treat, shut the door and feed your dog additional treats through the closed crate door.

**4.** After several sessions of this process, practiced over a couple of weeks, you can begin to leave your dog crated with a durable, hollow chew toy, one that is specially manufactured for stuffing with gooey peanut butter or extra-special treats that he will want to lick or work out. Never leave your dog with toys that can be accidentally chewed apart and ingested, and remove any toys should you notice damage to them. Return to the crate **BEFORE** your dog finishes the treat-stuffed toy. Open the door and allow your dog to exit while also removing the toy. By providing your dog with a treat-stuffed toy only when crating him, it teaches your dog to look forward to your leaving.

**5.** Gradually increase the time you leave your dog crated with his stuffed treat.

### **If you are training a puppy:**

1. After your puppy is fed and watered, take him outside for a walk and playtime, making sure he eliminates.
2. After playtime, crate your puppy until the next trip outside. Do not make the crate sessions too long, however. Puppies need to go out every two to four hours. Forcing your pup to remain crated too long risks an accident in the crate, which then dramatically increases your housetraining time.

### **Please Remember**

**Don't use the crate for punishment.** Your dog's crate should always be a safe and happy place. It is his sanctuary. If you use it as punishment, your well-behaved dog will soon begin to display unwanted or destructive behaviors. Time-outs are fine for overexcited pups, but keep it positive. Never scold them as they go in or while they are in their crate.

**Remove collars and leads.** Be sure to take off your dog's collar and lead before crating him so there is no chance he will get caught in crate wires or latches.

**Do not over-crate your dog.** Never consider your crate a replacement for training or view it as a permanent pet sitter. Over-crated dogs do not receive adequate movement, physical exercise or mental stimulation.

**Leave the crate door open when you are home, and keep it lined with soft bedding and a pet-favorite indestructible toy.** Doing so gives your dog a place to go when he wants to be left alone.

### **Consult your veterinarian or trainer for more guidance.**

There's more than one way to crate train and every dog is different. Talk to your vet or trainer for added insights and assistance training your pet.

### **Before You Purchase**

**Select the Correct Size.** An adult dog should be able to stand up and turn around in the crate. The crate should be about the same length of the dog when lying down. If you have a puppy, select the crate size that will properly fit him when he's full grown. Use a divider panel that can be moved as your puppy grows. This will increase the speed of housetraining.

**Select Crate Construction.** If you plan to travel by air with your dog, consider a portable plastic pet crate that meets the International Air Transport Association (IATA) requirements, like the Pet Lodge™ plastic pet crate. Lightweight, they can also be easily taken in and out of a car. Whether you choose a portable plastic pet crate or a wire crate, selecting one with a double door will greatly increase your placement options. Double doors allow you to position the crate in a room or car either lengthwise or widthwise. Pet Lodge™ offers both wire and plastic double door crates. Check the crate's construction. Secure latches shouldn't jiggle loose when in a locked position. Rounded corners, which are found on both the Pet Lodge™ wire and plastic crates, provide greater safety for you and your dog.

## **Why Crate Train?**

*Crate training your dog offers tremendous benefits:*

- It's the easiest fastest method for housetraining your puppy.
- It's the safest place for your dog to be when traveling by car.
- It prevents destructive chewing when you are away.
- It's the perfect bed or time-out area for overexcited dogs.
- It provides a secure, stress-free space your dog can call his own.
- It's a familiar traveling home for your pet. Tents, hotels and guest homes become an easy adjustment for your dog.



For more information or to place an order contact your Miller Sales Representative  
[www.miller-mfg.com](http://www.miller-mfg.com) or 800-260-0888

