

Puppy Steps Crate Training Guide

Crate training helps your puppy feel safe, secure, and comfortable in their own space. It also supports potty training, prevents unwanted behaviors, and makes travel less stressful. Follow these steps to create a positive crate experience for your new pup.

Step 1: Introduce the Crate

Place the crate in a quiet but social area of your home. Keep the door open and let your puppy explore at their own pace. Add a cozy blanket, soft bed, and a favorite toy to make it inviting.

Step 2: Make it Positive

Feed your puppy meals near or inside the crate. Offer treats when they choose to go inside on their own. Use praise and rewards to build a positive association.

Step 3: Short Stays First

Start with 5–10 minute crate times while you are nearby. Gradually increase the duration as your puppy gets comfortable.

Step 4: Create a Routine

Use the crate for naps and bedtime so your puppy learns it's a normal part of daily life. Always take them outside for a potty break right before and after crate time.

Step 5: Never Use as Punishment

The crate should always be a safe, happy space. Never send your puppy to the crate as a consequence for bad behavior.

Extra Tips for Success

- Keep crate sessions short and positive at first.
- Avoid overusing the crate—puppies need exercise and interaction.
- Cover the crate with a light blanket if your puppy feels exposed.
- Be patient—every puppy learns at their own pace.