



Crate Training

Crate training your dog may take some time and effort but can be useful in a variety of situations. If you have a new dog/puppy you can use the crate to limit his access to the house until he learns all the house rules. A crate is also a safe way of transporting your dog in the car. If you properly train your dog to use a crate, he'll think of it as his safe place and will be happy to spend time there when needed.

Selecting a Crate:

Crates come in a variety of sizes, shapes, colors and material make ups. You will want to choose one that is large enough for your dog to stand up and turn around in. You can purchase these at most pet stores and online.

The Crate Training Process:

Crate training can take days or weeks, depending on your dog's age, past experiences and temperament. So, remember to be patient and consistent with this process. The crate should always be associated with something pleasant, and training should take place in small increments.... slow and steady wins the race!

Step 1: Introduce your dog to the crate.

- Door open, soft blanket in crate, treats in crate and allow him to check it out. Do not force him in!

Step 2: Feed your dog meals in the crate.

- Put food bowl near crate, put food bowl in crate and finally close the door while he eats in it.

Step 3: Crate for small periods of time.

- Treat once in crate, sit near crate, leave room for a few min, sit near crate and then reward.
- Repeat and try extending the time to 10-20 minutes and then 30 minutes.

Step 4: Crate while you leave the house.

- Put in crate, treat/toy, stay calm when leaving and arriving back home and try not to leave for longer than 4-5 hours.

Remember that a crate is not a magical solution. If used incorrectly a dog can feel trapped and frustrated. Also, keep in mind that a puppy under 6 months of age can't hold their bladder for more than 3-4 hours (maybe less). If your dog whines, try to figure out if it's for attention or if they need to go potty. Don't get frustrated and yell for them to stop or bang on the crate. If the whining continues, you may need to go back to the beginning and start the process over.

If you find you are still having trouble crate training reach out to an animal behaviorist who has experience.

For additional training needs, please call or email us.