

Bringing home a Shelter Dog? Got Crate?



- ⊙ Use a crate right from the beginning and make it a **fun place** to be.
- ⊙ Start by tossing treats near the front of the crate. Once your dog is comfortable stepping into the crate, toss treats to the back. After several iterations and the dog is comfortable walking in and out of the crate, close the door for a few seconds. Let the dog out and repeat these steps adding duration to the door being closed. Again, **Keep It Fun!**
- ⊙ While your dog is getting use to the crate, put your dog in the crate when you're at home for short periods of time. (Don't forget to place a toy in the crate with him.)
- ⊙ Always let your dog out in the yard when you let them out of the crate. (House training 101!)
- ⊙ Make sure your dog is calm (sitting is best) when you open the crate door. (This helps increase self-control especially with puppies.)
- ⊙ Attach a small water container to the side so it doesn't spill.
- ⊙ Always give your dog a toy, hard bone or treat when he's in the crate. (toys stuffed with treats and peanut butter work great!)
- ⊙ Rotate the toys you put in the crate and put the toys from the crate out in the open for the dog to play with. This helps the dog learn what is his and what is yours!
- ⊙ Play games with your crate! Hold your dog a few feet from the crate, give him a 'Ready, Ready, Ready' and let him go. Run with him toward the crate. If he goes in, give him a treat!
Make the crate a fun activity and you and your dog will love it!
- ⊙ The suggested maximum time a puppy can spend in a crate is one plus the number of months old the puppy is. Limit the time in the crate the first week.
- ⊙ **NEVER put your dog in the crate as a punishment!**