

# CRATE TRAINING 101

Although crate training is not required, it is **HIGHLY** recommended! Crate training can be very helpful during housebreaking and may also be used to help the dog maintain a healthy feeding schedule. It is also helpful for creating down time for both dog and owner. Using a crate during the Two-week Shutdown Period when the dog first enters the home provides them with a comfortable place of their own to truly rest and relax.

## House Rules:

These rules do not need to be enforced forever, however they will help improve the bond between you and your dog.

- No toys readily available. When it's play time, take the toy out and play. When play time is over, put the toy back away.
- No couches, sofas, or beds. This teaches boundaries.
- No begging and no table scraps. This one should always be enforced!
- Do not give your dog attention when they bark or whine at you. This teaches them that bad behavior will get your attention.
- You initiate activities. This helps teach the dog that **YOU** are in control. If you don't take a leadership role, the dog will absolutely try to steal it and run with it.
- Always walk ahead of your dog. Remember, follow the leader!
- Limit talking to your dog, as they do not understand language very well. Dogs are non-verbal creatures who understand body language, hand signals and energy better than words.
- Keep your dog inside their crate unless being exercised, fed, taken out to relieve themselves, or otherwise interacted with. This one isn't forever, but will be extremely beneficial for the adjustment period to help them acclimate to their new environment.

Allow the dog access to the crate even after housebreaking. Dogs like to have their own safe space.

Make the crate a safe, comfortable place for your dog to rest

Try to keep your dog calm when putting them in the crate and taking them out. Make it a non-event as much as possible.

Leave enrichment toys in the crate to relieve stress. This can be chew toys, lick mats, puzzles, kong with frozen peanut butter, etc.



Adjust where the crate is depending on your dog's needs. Some dogs do well in social areas like the living room-while others do best in a quiet room like the basement.

Don't crate your dog for long periods of time without first practicing short periods and getting them used to the crate. Getting a young puppy requires you to get up in the middle of the night for bathroom breaks. Be sure to plan accordingly.

Utilize the crate whenever you are not home until you trust the dog not to have accidents or exhibit destructive behaviors. This can last a few months, years or even a lifetime depending on the dog. Set realistic expectations and position your dog for success.

Don't leave bedding in the crate until you get to know your dog

Don't use potty pads or newspaper in the crate as this only encourages them to relieve themselves inside. The goal is to encourage them to hold it.

