



Rovers Return Dog Rescue

Feed Fix Network

Crate Training

A helpful guide for new adopters

Crate training teaches your dog to view a crate as a safe, comfortable space of their own. When introduced positively, a crate becomes a place where your dog can relax, sleep, and decompress.

WHY CRATE TRAINING HELPS

Safety: prevents your dog from getting into unsafe situations when unsupervised.

House training: dogs naturally avoid soiling their sleeping area.

Stress reduction: a crate can provide comfort during loud noises, visitors, or overstimulating situations.

Destructive behavior prevention: protects your home and keeps your dog safe when you cannot supervise.

Routine support: helps dogs settle into a predictable schedule and adapt more easily.

HOW TO CRATE TRAIN SUCCESSFULLY

Make the crate a positive place with treats and praise.

Leave the door open at first and allow voluntary exploration.

Start with short sessions and increase time gradually.

Add comfortable bedding and safe chew toys.

Never use the crate as punishment.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT CRATE

Select a crate that allows your dog to stand, turn around, and lie down comfortably. Ensure it has good ventilation and is appropriate for your dog's size.

COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID

- Leaving your dog crated too long.
- Using the crate as punishment.
- Rushing the introduction process.
- Letting barking result in immediate release.

HOW LONG IS REASONABLE

- Puppies: usually 2 to 3 hours maximum, depending on age.
- Adult dogs: 4 to 6 hours during the day is typical. Overnight crating is fine once the dog is comfortable and settled.

A crate should always be your dog's safe place, not a punishment.

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