



## Crate training for adult dogs

### The basics:

The crate must be of adequate size

- The crate should be long enough to allow the dog to lie down stretched out flat on his side, and tall enough to allow the dog to sit up without hitting his head

The crate must be placed with the family

- Place the crate in a busy room like the kitchen or living room
- At night, the crate is best placed in the bedroom, so the dog can feel part of the pack.

Do not put the bedding in the crate right away.

- Once your dog goes in the crate on command, then you can add bedding.

### Steps to successful crate training:

1- Allow the dog to investigate the crate, on his own terms

- Leave the door open, let your dog sniff and go in if he wants.
- Do not talk to him or ask him to go in at this point, just let him be.
- Once he no longer feels the need to sniff around it, you can proceed to the next step

2- Lure the dog inside the crate by tossing "special" treats (cheese, liver, hotdog) into the far end

- Allow the dog to turn and come back out. Praise him enthusiastically.
- Do not force the dog at this stage, we want the crate to be a positive experience
- Do not try to reason with him



### 3- Add the "in" and "out" command

- Go to the back of the crate, hold the treat through one of the back holes, or if you have a wire crate, hold a treat from the top.
- When your dog goes in say "IN" let him take the treat, then say "OUT" when he exits
- Do this several times a day, so he learns to go in on command

### 4- Once he knows the IN command

- Tell him "IN" without a treat, he should go in. If he doesn't, go back to step #3
- Ask him to sit in his crate; you can use a treat here.
- Sit in front of the door so he can't escape

### 5- Once he sits in the crate, you can close the door

- At first, give him treats to reward him when the door is closed.
- DO NOT reward your dog if he is barking or throwing a tantrum, you must ignore this behavior. No talking or asking him to stop, you must endure the bark.
- Only reward when the dog is calm and quiet



- You must remain firm and consistent, so that the dog will understand you want him to be in the crate and be quiet. Do not give into him!
- Give him a stuffed Kong to entertain him while you are gone.
- You may want your first outing to be brief (1/2 to 1 hour), proving to yourself that he has quietly accepted confinement and reassuring him that you have indeed come back to him. In time and as his confidence improves, you will be able to start weaning him from use of the crate.
- If your dog will not stop barking, this can be frustrating. The first few nights the dog is in the crate, you have to expect him to be agitated and bark. This is a new home, new people, new environment, and new rules! This behavior can go on for minutes or all night. You must ignore this behavior, and endure a few sleepless nights.
- **To help your dog settle down at night, place a blanket or cover over the crate, so he can't see anything. This will calm him down and allow everyone to get some rest. You can also use this technique during the day if you like.**

**If you are facing any challenges with crate training, do not hesitate to contact Caroline at Bold Canine  
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