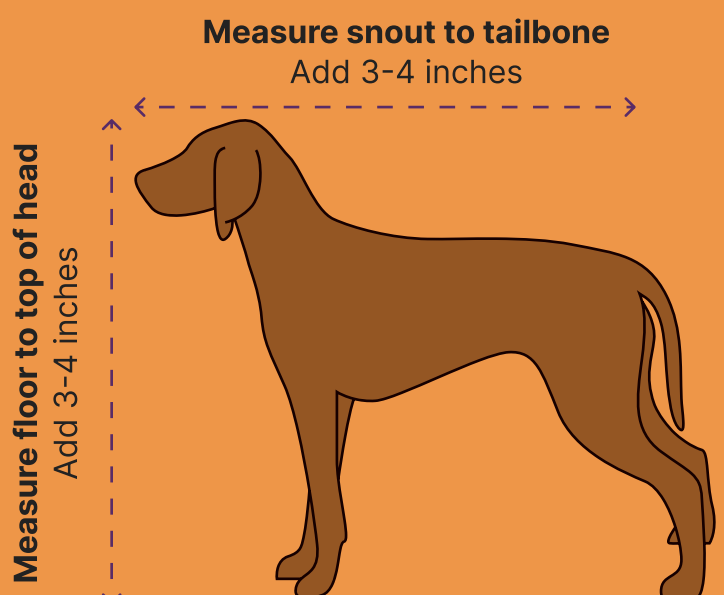


CRATE TRAINING

CHOOSING THE RIGHT CRATE FOR YOUR PUP

For full grown adult dogs select a crate that allows the dog to stand all the way and turn around comfortably.

For puppies it is best to select a crate close to their adult size and weight. Most crates will come with an adjustable divider that allows you to make the accessible space grow with your puppy.



STEP 1: SETUP

Make the crate a positive place by placing treats and toys inside. We recommend you don't place any bedding or anything that your dog may be able to destroy and consume inside the crate until they are fully trained.

Place the crate in a quiet corner or a regularly used room, like your living room. We also recommend placing another crate inside your bedroom for the first few weeks if you wish to crate your pup at night, we'll begin getting them used to more separation over time.



STEP 2: INTRODUCE THE CRATE



Give your pup lots of praise for investigating the crate on their own, toss treats inside and encourage them to move in and out of the crate on their own. Continue tossing treats while they are already inside to encourage duration of staying in the crate. Once they are doing this consistently begin adding a command to it like "crate" or "go to bed."

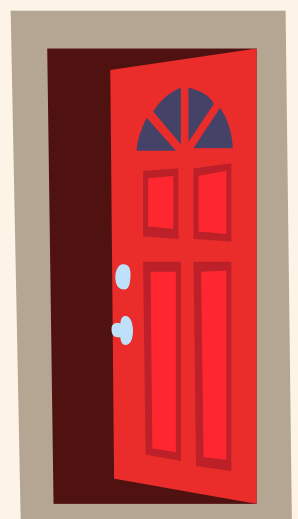
If your new dog is showing any type of crate anxiety during this time (whining, accidents, biting at the bars, or destroying soft items in or around the crate) use a puppy play pen for a few weeks whenever you need to leave.

STEP 3: CLOSE THE DOOR

Once they are going in and out the crate consistently and maybe even using it throughout the day on their own start we'll training them to be okay with closing the door.

Ask them to "crate", close the door for a second or two, and then open it. Give them lots of praise for being quiet and patient. If needed toss treats through the bars while the door is closed to help your pup get used to building up duration.

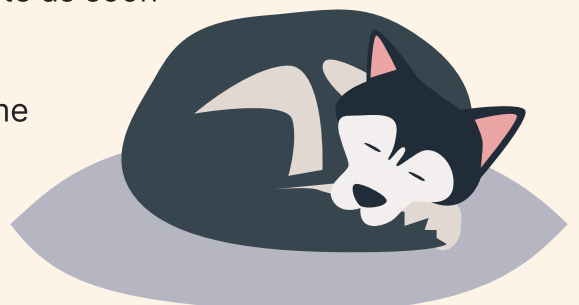
Slowly work your way up to keeping the door closed for a few minutes **with you still in sight**. For example have them "crate" while you're watching tv on the couch next to them. This will teach them that crates mean nap time.



STEP 4: CREATE A POSITIVE ASSOCIATION

To help build an even stronger positive association with the crate feed all of their meals or special chews in the crate. Using the crate as a space for them to only get something like a bully stick or greenie will have them running for their crate as soon as you open the bag.

You can also start to send them to their crate for nap time throughout the day if your puppy is particularly young. When they fall asleep after playing you can move them to their crate so they begin to learn that's where they should fall asleep.



STEP 5: LEAVE THE ROOM

This can be the hardest step for some dogs, but all of our previous work should have built a strong foundation for them to feel safe without you in the room.

Ask them to "crate", close the door, give them a treat and then leave the room. Wait 1-2 seconds and then come back. Ignore any overexcitement, wait for them to calm down, give them a treat, and then open the door.

Work up slowly. Once you make it to 15-30 minutes without any whining your dog should be able to handle any length of time in the crate. Remember to leave something safe for them to chew on if you're going to be gone for long hours.