

CRATE TRAINING

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- A crate that's an appropriate size for your dog to stand up and turn around in
- Yummy food/treats (lots of them!)
- Tons of patience!

PHASE ONE - GET HIM COMFORTABLE WITH FREELY ENTERING THE CRATE

1. Leave crate door open and, randomly throughout day, drop treats at the back.

2. Use a treat to lure him into crate, feed at the back (toss treat), let him exit at freely. Move to step 3 when he does this 5 times in a row.

3. Lure him into crate and continue the flow of treats (1 second apart) as long as he stays in the crate. (Still let him exit freely.)

Move to step 4 when he will stay in the crate happily for 1 minute.

4. Point to crate to hand-signal him into crate and continue the flow of treats (~1 second apart) as long as he stays in crate. (Let him exit at will.)

Move to step 5 when he will stay in the crate happily for 1 minute.

5. Point to crate to hand-signal him into crate and feed and continue the flow of treats (~2 seconds apart) as long as he stays in crate. (Let him exit at will.)

Move to step 6 when he will stay in the crate happily for 1 minute.

PHASE TWO - GET HIM COMFORTABLE WITH YOU CLOSING THE DOOR

6. Hand-signal him into crate, move door to half-closed, feed, let him exit.

7. Hand-signal him into crate, close door, feed, open door, let him exit.

8. Hand-signal him into crate, close door for 2 seconds, feed, let him exit.

9. Hand-signal him into crate, close door, continue the flow of treats (1 second apart) as the door is closed for 3 seconds, let him exit.

10. Hand-signal him into crate, close door, continue the flow of treats (1 second apart) as the door is closed for 5 seconds, let him exit.

11. Hand-signal him into crate, close door, continue the flow of treats (1 second apart) as the door is closed for 10 seconds, let him exit if he wants. While the door is open, stop the treats, close the door and continue feeding. Check out the video 'Getting used to a crate' in the Life Skills Library.

NOTES:

PHASE THREE - ADD DURATION

12. Make crate very comfy with bedding, hand-signal him into crate, give stuffed Kong or other special chew object, close door, hang out next to crate reading or watching TV for 10 minutes, dropping treats in every 20–30 seconds.

» Do this 4–5 times over 2 or more days.

» Move to next step if he goes in without delay and displays no signs of distress when he's in there.

13. Repeat step 12 at a different time but now occasionally get up and leave room. Return within a few seconds.

» Do this 4–5 times over 2 or more days.

» Move to next step if he goes in without delay and displays no signs of distress when he's in there.

14. Repeat step 12 at a different time but now for 30 minutes and feeding less frequently (every couple of minutes).

» Do this 4–5 times over 2 or more days.

» From here you can increase duration as long as your dog displays no signs of distress when he's in there.

NOTES: