

# CRATE TRAINING



Helps with: preventing destructive behaviors during unsupervised periods of time, providing a safe place to rest and recover

Underlying concept: create a space where your dog feels safe, comfortable, and secure. The crate should be used for downtime and times when you need to leave the dog alone unattended- do not use the crate for punishment or time-out, as your dog may begin to associate the crate with you being upset.



## SET UP FOR SUCCESS



- Get an appropriately-sized crate. Your dog should be able to stand up, turn around, and lie down comfortably. The crate can be wire or plastic, though plastic may be more secure if your dog attempts to break out.
- If your dog tends to be destructive, do not put bedding or soft toys in the crate.
- Get a few durable, stuffable toys (like Kongs), fill with a tasty snack, and freeze if desired



## BUILD A POSITIVE ASSOCIATION WITH THE CRATE



- Toss a treat into the crate for the dog to follow in. Pair the dog entering the crate with a cue, such as "crate" or "kennel up". Do this multiple times per day.
- Feed your dog in the crate each meal. If they are hesitant, feed them next to the crate at first, then right inside the door, and eventually move to feeding them toward the back of the crate.



## START USING THE CRATE



- Work on shutting the door to the crate for a short period of time
- Give your dog a tasty stuffed Kong to work on while in the crate
- Remain in eyesight initially so your dog does not become stressed by your absence
- Start incorporating short periods of time out of your dog's sight while you are still home
- Slowly increase the length of time the dog is in the crate without you in the same room

## TIPS!

- Make sure your dog's needs are met prior to crating them- ensure they have gone to the bathroom and have had enough exercise so they are ready to rest.
- Covering the crate with a towel or blanket may help your dog relax in the crate. Be careful if your dog is destructive, as they may chew on the towel if they can access it.
- Turn on a television or quiet music in the background to drown out other noises.