



Crate Training Document

Week 1

1. As soon as the crate arrives, separate the top and bottom and keep both the top and bottom as the base.
2. Remove the door and keep it away for now. Pls ensure you keep this as well as the screws and bowls (if any) that came with the crate in a safe place.
3. The top and bottom of the crate will now be used as a base for the pet to get used to as well as rub off his/her smell on both halves.
4. Keep them in different rooms for your pet to have more than one access to the crate.
5. Whenever possible, place the crate **near or next to you** when you are home.
6. A central room in the apartment (i.e.: living room, kitchen or Bedroom) is a good place to place the crate.
7. It's a great idea to move the crate around to a particular room if you are going to be spending some time in that room. (Living room while watching TV, Kitchen while cooking, Bedroom in the night etc)
8. Occasionally throughout the day, drop very small pieces of treats or biscuits in the crate. While investigating her new crate, the pet will discover edible treasures, thereby reinforcing her positive associations with the crate.
9. You can also place your pet's favorite toys and dog treats at the far end opposite the door opening.
10. You may also place a sterilized marrow bone or a Kong toy filled with cheese or dog treats in the crate.
11. It is highly recommended to feed her in the crate to create the same effect. If she is on dry food, it is a good idea to just scatter the food directly into the crate. This will make her spend more time inside the crate smelling, searching and eating her meal.
12. It is also advisable to keep her water bowl in the far end of the crate so she has to go in every time to drink water. Normally pets on kibble will drink lots of water and this will ensure she goes in and out of the crate many times.
13. If your pet hesitates to go inside, it often works to feed her in front of the crate, then right inside the doorway and then, finally, in the back of the crate. In the beginning, praise and pet her when she enters.
14. Do **NOT** try to push, pull or force the pet into the crate.
15. At this early stage of introduction only inductive methods are suggested

Week 2

1. Continue to use the top half of the crate as a 'Reward Place' as per Week 1
2. In the bottom half of the crate, now lets introduce a towel or blanket inside to create a soft, comfortable bed for your pet.
3. If your pet is already used to a bed or has her favorite blanket , you can place that inside the crate
4. Typically, a woven carpet (<http://gocoop.com/product/cauvery/jamkhana>) or a thick quilt folded into half makes for a good, comfortable bed.
5. This done, we will need to get her to associate her crate with a word. You can use 'House', 'Crate', 'Room' etc. We prefer 'Crate' as it simple, clear and distinctive.

6. **Without alerting** your pet, drop a small dog biscuit into any half of the crate. Then call your pet and say to her, "Where's the biscuit? It's in your **CRATE**." Using only a friendly, encouraging voice, direct your pet towards her crate. When she discovers the treat, give enthusiastic praise. The biscuit will automatically serve as a primary reward. Your pet should be **free to leave her crate at all times** during this game.
7. You could also use a toy or ball as a substituted for the treat.
8. Just make sure the crates/ Bedding are cleaned out well such that no ants or insects are attracted because of the foods. A small bite and some pets will no longer want to go closer to the crate!
9. If your pet has multiple beds in the house, remove them all such that the only access to bedding is in the crate.
10. Every time she is tired after a walk or play session, lead her to the crate with the bedding with a treat and try to stall her time in the crate. If she knows a 'Sit' or 'Down', this would be a great time to reinforce it while she is in the crate.
11. It may also be a good idea to sit beside the crate, stroking and talking to her till she dozes off. In cases of bigger crate, sitting inside the crate with her does also help! (Just make sure you don't put weight on the sides which may cause the crate to crack or even break!)
12. Remember **not** to leave her side as soon as she dozes off. She will be in a semi-sleepy state and will immediately wake up and follow you! Wait till she is fully asleep before you leave the room.
13. You can continue to keep the crate beside/front of you in which ever room you are in with some body contact with her. Continue to do this every time she is tired and sleepy and she will gradually learn to go into her crate when she wants to rest.
14. If you are training her during summer and your pet wants to sleep on the cold floor instead of on the bedding, you can remove her bedding and place an ice pack inside the crate.
15. You could also place standing fans/ coolers in front of the crates such that the crate becomes the most comfortable spot in the house for her to spend time in.

Week 3

1. Fix the top and bottom half with the screws that came with the crate. **DO NOT** fix the door yet.
2. Put her bedding in the crate. The crate will now serve primarily as a resting place where treats become incidental.
3. Using the 'Crate' command as above, have the pet go in multiple times in a day. Every time she enters she is given a treat from the **side openings** and the **back opening** of the crate.
4. Do not make a routine of from where the treats are fed. For eg- clockwise or anticlockwise. Instead, make it a game where she will have to guess which side the treats are coming from. As such she will wait and follow your instructions.
5. Remember not to block the opening entrance. She should feel safe to leave the crate whenever she wants to.
6. If she comes out of the crate and asks for the treat, you will have to send her back in, let her wait for a few minutes and then reward her through either the side or back opening only.
7. Do not have a fixed time spent for this game. Else, she will immediately come out as soon the time is up. It should vary and it is up to your discretion to end the game.
8. The time spent on this can vary from 15 minutes to an hour. It is advisable to do this as many times as day as possible.
9. Continue to move the crate around to a particular room if you are going to be spending some time in that room. (Living room while watching TV, Kitchen while cooking, Bedroom in the night etc)
10. Continue to feed her in the crate after removing the bedding. You can remove her water bowl from inside the crate but place it very close to the crate.
11. Continue to lead her to her crate every time she is tired after a walk or play session. Also continue sit beside the crate, stroking and talking to her till she dozes off.

12. Remember **not** to leave her side as soon as she dozes off. She will be in a semi-sleepy state and will immediately wake up and follow you! Wait till she is fully asleep before you leave the room.
13. If it is summer, use fans/coolers/ice packs as discussed above.
14. During nights, it is extremely important to move the crate into the bedroom and have her sleep inside as much as possible. Every time she jumps on the bed (if she is used), you would have to coax her to get down and sleep in her crate. Keeping the crate right next to the bed (touching if possible) will help her sleep inside more frequently.
15. Reinforcement and being firm is the key to success here. The efforts of this will help a great deal in week 4 !

Week 4

1. Fix the door that came with the crate. You would have to remove the top and bottom, put the door in its slot, put the top back on and using the screws that came with the crate, tighten the top and bottom.
2. Some doors have a '**Spring-press**' lock mechanism. Ask the person who supplied the crate on its operation. Sometimes putting too much force while opening or closing can break the spring mechanism, making the door useless.
3. Keeping the door open, have the pet go in and with the 'Crate' command. She is given a treat from the **side openings** and the **back opening** of the crate.
4. Close the door and reward her **through the door**. Open the door and let her out.
5. Play the same game as week 3 where she doesn't know where or when the next treat will come from. This time you will also reward her through the door. Praise her well while rewarding.
6. The time spent on this can vary from 15 minutes to an hour. It is advisable to do this as many times as day as possible.
7. Continue to feed her in the crate after removing the bedding. You can remove her water bowl from inside the crate but place it very close to the crate.
8. Continue to lead her to her crate every time she is tired after a walk or play session. Also continue sit beside the crate, stroking and talking to her till she dozes off.
9. Once she is fully asleep, you can close the door and leave the room.
10. If she starts whining/barking, do not let her outside until she stops. There has to be a good 3 minute time **after** the whining/Barking stops before you let her out.
11. You can also put a cloth over the crate so that she calms down faster.
12. **DO NOT** talk or shout or express anger if she is barking/whining. Just ignore her and she will calm down.
13. When you do let her out **after** she has calmed down, **DO NOT** reward her or praise her. It will have a reverse effect on her thinking she needs to whine and bark to be let out. And by praising or rewarding, you are reinforcing that ! Just open the door and go about doing things as usual.
14. Continue to move the crate around to a particular room if you are going to be spending some time in that room. (Living room while watching TV, Kitchen while cooking, Bedroom in the night etc). Now you can keep the door closed. You can use the cloth over the crate if she seems a bit anxious.
15. During nights, move the crate into the bedroom and have her sleep inside. If have spent sleepless nights in week 3 with reinforcement, you will see the results now ! Continue to keep the crate right next to the bed and you can touch her though the side openings.

Week 5 till day of travel:

1. **Reinforce, reinforce, reinforce**
2. All the training that we have done for the last 4 weeks has only put the pattern in her head.
3. We need **at least 4 weeks** from here for her to get this engrained and accept it as a part of her routine.
4. The more time we give, the more comfortable she is going to feel in her crate during travel, thereby reducing stress to a great deal.
5. This reinforcement is **extremely important** and **should not** be skipped.
6. If there is a break in this reinforcement and she goes back to her old ways, we will have to **re-start the training** from day 1!

Important Reminders

1. Please be careful that your pet does not chew the crate at any point in time.
2. Airlines have a very straight policy on crates that are chewed up and will reject them if found unsuitable for travel.
3. Be certain that your pet has fully eliminated shortly before being crated.
4. Be sure that the crate you are using is the right size to discourage your pet from eliminating in it.
5. If your pet messes in her crate while inside, do **NOT** punish her. Simply wash out the crate using a Non- ammonia-based product and dry out the crate completely
6. **NEVER** use the crate as a form of punishment or reprimand for your pet. This simply causes the pet to fear and resent the crate. If correctly introduced to his crate as discussed above, your pet should be happy to go into her crate at any time.
7. Do not allow children to play in your pet's crate or to handle your pet while she is in the crate. The crate is your pet's private sanctuary. Her rights to privacy should always be respected.