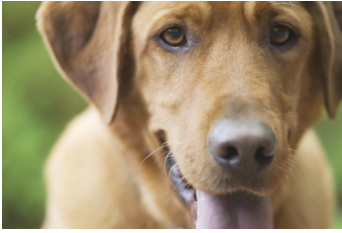


# Crate Training Is Easy!





**Crate Training Is Kind!** Unlike people, dogs have a natural denning instinct. A small, protected enclosure - like a crate - can provide security and confidence for a dog.


**Crate Training Works!** Whether you're helping a puppy or an adult dog learn to use the outdoors for a bathroom, not to chew things other than her own toys, or where to go when she's had enough of the kids, crate training works gently and safely.


**Crate Training Is Easy!** Because crate training works with your dog's natural instincts, most dogs take to crate training in a week or less. Many dogs have been introduced to a crate during their stay at MHS.


## Important Reasons to Crate Train Your Dog...

 **Housetraining** - dogs are natural denners and they don't normally soil their dens. Starting with an appropriately sized crate (their den) will quickly teach your dog to keep your den (the house) clean as well. Even housetraining a puppy works quickly with crate training.

 **Prevent Destructive Chewing** - dogs chew to relieve stress, anxiety, boredom, or teething pain. Being confined to a crate with appropriate chew toys will prevent them from making chew toys out of your furniture, remote controls, shoes, books, etc.

 **Visitors & Workers** - When friends, family, kids, or workers come to your home, you can ensure that they feel safe and comfortable by crating your dog until things settle down. This protects your dog, too... from escaping outdoors through a door that's left open, from biting out of fear or protective instincts, or from kids who are too much for your dog. Your dog might even choose to be in her crate when your home gets too busy for her.

 **Recuperating** - If your dog becomes ill or requires surgery, your veterinarian will prescribe quiet rest as part of the healing process. A crate is an excellent way to keep a dog quiet - especially if she is young and exuberant and/or your home has a high activity level.

 **Vacations** - More and more hotels, motels, cabins, and campgrounds are allowing dogs. Many require dogs to be crated, especially if they're left unattended in the room. Required or not, you can ensure you'll be welcomed back anywhere you stay (including the homes of friends and relatives) by bringing along your "good doggie behavior" guarantee - your dog's crate. Your dog will thank you, too, because taking her crate along shows her you aren't just leaving her in a strange place to fend for herself.



## 6 Secrets of Successful Crate Training

- 1) **Never use the crate as punishment.** If you associate the crate with anything unpleasant, your dog will not want to be in it. The crate should always be associated with good things - treats, toys, dinner... a great place to be.
- 2) **Take it slow.** Start easy and progress slowly. Start with short-term crating (30 seconds - 5 minutes), build gradually (10-15-30-60 minutes) to long-term crating of several hours at a time (for healthy adult dogs only).
- 3) **Make a game out of getting in the crate.** When your dog's not looking, hide her favorite toy or snack in there. When your dog finds the treasure, she will think "wow, this crate has some cool stuff." Teach "crate time" like any other trick and when you're practicing tricks, add it to the repertoire... your dog will think "this is fun!" Feed your dog in her crate. Your dog will think "Hmmm, good things happen in this crate!" (Be sure to take her outside right after she eats, because a dog normally has to relieve herself within 15-30 minutes of eating.)
- 4) **Exercise, exercise, exercise!** Always give your dog plenty of leg stretching, tail wagging exercise before and after she is crated - and make sure she has gone to the bathroom, too. The more exercise your dog gets, the better behaved she will be - in and out of the crate.
- 5) **Don't encourage barking.** If you respond to barking by letting your dog out of the crate, she will learn that barking is an effective way to get you to open the door. When releasing your dog from the crate, wait until she is quiet (even for five seconds), tell her to sit or lie down, and open the door when she complies. This prevents your dog from getting the misguided notion that her barking or pawing caused you to open the door.
- 6) **Don't act apologetic, sad, or regretful** that your dog is about to be crated. Unless they are "required" to perform in some way, dogs will normally sleep 18-20 hours a day (what a life!). They might as well get in some of those hours inside a cozy crate while you're at work (and some more while you're sleeping if your dog gets into mischief at night).

**Training Troubles:** Most dogs take readily and easily to crate training. If you're having problems crate-training your dog, call MHS immediately - don't wait until you and your dog have become frustrated and unhappy.

