

RYKER CRATE TRAINING TIPS

KEY POINTS

- Crate Training helps with potty training issues. Dogs do not like to eliminate where they sleep.
- Crate training should not be a form of punishment or “imprisonment”. Create positive associations with the crate by incorporating treats and games.
- Crates provide a form of safety for dogs to prevent them from tearing things up around the house when your dog isn’t supervised.
- Make sure training tools such as leash, prong, gentle leader or choke collar are off when your dog is in the crate.
- Be patient. It will take time for your dog to be comfortable in the crate.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT CRATE FOR YOUR DOG

- Crates come in different types. Plastic crates are great for dogs that prefer being more enclosed. Plastic crates are also airline friendly if you plan to travel with your dog. Wire crates are best for puppies. Most wire crates come with dividers that can grow with the puppy.
- Make sure to buy the right size. Dogs should be able to turn around, lay down and stretch out comfortably. The crate should not be big enough that there is enough room to potty in it.



PROPERLY INTRODUCE YOUR DOG TO THE CRATE

- Don't try to shove your dog into the crate and leave. This will create stress and anxiety.
- Start by leaving the crate door(s) open and guide your dog into the crate with treats or their favorite toy.
- Feed all meals in the crate.
- Increase positive association and excitement about being in the crate by giving interactive treats (like peanut butter filled Kongs) and major chews.
- Once the dog gets comfortable going in and out, have your dog enter the crate and close the door(s) for a few seconds.

CRATE MANNERS

- Give your dog a crate command (ex. "crate" or "kennel") for them to enter the crate.
- Correct any excessive behaviors such as whining, barking, digging, chewing or trying to escape out of the crate.
- The dog is not allowed to barge out of the crate or be pushy. Your dog has to be calm and wait until you give their release command ("okay", "break", "release" etc.).
- Randomly reward with treats when your dog is calm.
- Reward your dog for being calm and quiet while the crate door is closed.

TIMING IS EVERYTHING

- As your dog gets comfortable, gradually increase the time your dog spends in the crate. Start crating them while you're at home then do short errands and increase to longer periods.
- Set a timer to make sure you take your dog out to potty regularly if they're being crated.

SLEEPING IN THE CRATE

- It's recommended that dogs sleep in their crates.
- Enforcing crate time will help with potty training and separation anxiety.

