

## TO CRATE OR NOT TO CRATE

**We recommend a crate, always.** Why, you might ask, it seems so....MEAN! Well, not really, it's actually a positive approach to housetraining. Imagine coming home to your new dog and he has torn up the curtains, was playing keep away with the sofa cushions and peed and pooped on the floor and you have had a long day. "HOLY SMOKES SPARKY, YOU ARE A BAD DOG. I AM TAKING YOU BACK TO MAIN LINE RESCUE!" vs. You crated him before you left with a giant Kong full of yummy treats, and when you get home you go to his crate and take him right outside where he pees and poops and you say, "Oh my sweet Sparky, you are such a good dog! Good poop! Good pee!" Now, do you still think the crate is mean?

Make sure any crate that you use is large enough for your dog to get up and turn around and stand without hitting the top with his head  
Never leave a puppy or active dog in a crate with a collar on.

Some dogs don't LIKE crates, or some dogs have never experienced crates. Try it and be patient. Make it wonderful, like a fort. Cover it with a blanket so it feels cave like (make sure he's not one of those dogs that pulls the blanket into his crate and eats it before leaving him a long time), put in a Kong filled with wet yummy food (you can use your regular dog food, soaked in water, maybe with a small amount of chicken broth or peanut butter) and keep them in the freezer) and some soft music and wow, everyone wants to be in there. Try feeding your dog in the crate. Make it a special place, but it should never be a place where they go when they are punished. It's not the time out "bad dog" place, they will quickly associate it with bad news.

Do not put the crate someplace where the dog is isolated from his family, they are part of your pack now and it's important for them to feel like they can see and hear you.

### **Baby Gates, exercise pens and small rooms**

If your dog has access to door that opens and closing during the day, with people going in and out, that does not lead to your fenced yard, put up a baby gate or an "X- Pen" (ask at the petstore) You will be happy you did when the UPS man knocks on the door and you answer it and your new dog runs between your legs and is GONE! (Don't even ask us how many times we have heard this same story!) Don't give them the opportunity, better safe than sorry!!

More information on Crate Training and How To:

[Tips](#) and [More Tips](#)

[Types of Crates and Sizes](#)