

Crate Training Step-By-Step Instructions

1. **(Intro)** Toss a treat into the crate and let your dog go in and retrieve it. Repeat until they go in, turn around, and walk back out.

2. **(Teach Cue)** Say your crate command then motion like you are tossing a treat into the crate. (called prompt) Once your dog is in and turned around, give them a treat. Repeat until they run inside after the verbal command only.

3. **(Supervised)** Send your dog to their crate then close the door. Feed your dog 3 treats through the door, one after the other, then open the door. Make your dog wait until you say it is ok to come out. Block them with your hand or body and only give them permission to get out when they are calm. Repeat until your dog waits until you say it is ok to exit 5 times in a row.

Continue step 3 as follows. Always prompt them in and make them wait for permission to come out. The focus is on the amount of time in the crate with the door closed. This is achieved by increasing the amount of time between treats. End the session after 5 repetitions.

| Step | Action | Repeat |
|------|---|--------|
| 3a | Close door, feed 3 treats, 2 seconds apart | 5x |
| 3b | Close door, feed 3 treats, 5 seconds apart | 5x |
| 3c | Close door, feed 3 treats, 8 seconds apart | 5x |
| 3d | Close door, feed 3 treats, 10 seconds apart | 5x |
| 3e | Close door, feed 3 treats, 15 seconds apart | 5x |
| 3f | Close door, feed 3 treats, 20 seconds apart | 5x |
| 3g | Close door, feed 3 treats, 30 seconds apart | 5x |
| 3h | Close door, feed 3 treats, 45 seconds apart | 5x |
| 3i | Close door, feed 3 treats, 60 seconds apart | 5x |
| 3j | Close door, feed 3 treats, 90 seconds apart | 5x |



If you need to add steps that is fine. Your pup should stay quiet and happy throughout. If they are stressed, crying, pawing the door, move more slowly.

To finish out step 3, build up time using food, treats or chews. Your dog should be happy to chew their bone in their crate for 10-30+ minutes while you read, watch tv, fold clothes, etc. nearby.

4. **(Alone)** Begin to distance yourself from the crate. Your dog is now fine with you sitting near the crate and giving them a treat every 90 seconds. They stay quiet and relaxed. Now add in some distance. Similar to step 3, build up how far you move away from the crate. It is a good idea to get them used to you moving towards an exit door.

| Step | Action | Repeat |
|------|---|--------|
| 4a | Close door, feed 1 treat, take 3 steps back, return and give treat | 5x |
| 4b | Close door, feed 1 treat, take 5 steps back, return and give treat | 5x |
| 4c | Close door, feed 1 treat, take 7 steps back, return and give treat | 5x |
| 4d | Close door, feed 1 treat, take 10 steps back, return and give treat | 5x |
| 4e | Close door, feed 1 treat, take 15 steps back, return and give treat | 5x |
| 4f | Close door, feed 1 treat, take 20 steps back, return and give treat | 5x |
| 4g | Close door, feed 1 treat, walk out of sight for 1 second, return and give treat | 5x |
| 4h | Close door, feed 1 treat, walk out of sight for 2 seconds, return and give treat | 5x |
| 4i | Close door, feed 1 treat, walk out of sight for 3 seconds, return and give treat | 5x |
| 4j | Close door, feed 1 treat, walk out of sight for 5 seconds, return and give treat | 5x |
| 4k | Close door, feed 1 treat, walk out of sight for 7 seconds, return and give treat | 5x |
| 4l | Close door, feed 1 treat, walk out of sight for 10 seconds, return and give treat | 5x |

To finish out step 4, build up time using food, treats or chews. Your dog should be happy to chew their bone in their crate for 1-10+ minutes while you are in another room.

5. **(Empty House)** You are now in a pretty solid position to be able to put your dog in the crate and do some house work or hop on a meeting. Now we need to actually leave the house. Repeat step 4 where you go out of sight, but this time leave out the door that you normally do when you are leaving the house for a while.

| | | |
|----|--|----|
| 5a | Close door, feed 1 treat, walk outside for 1 second, return and give treat | 5x |
| 5b | Close door, feed 1 treat, walk outside for 3 seconds, return and give treat | 5x |
| 5c | Close door, feed 1 treat, walk outside for 5 seconds, return and give treat | 5x |
| 5d | Close door, feed 1 treat, walk outside for 10 seconds, return and give treat | 5x |
| 5e | Close door, feed 1 treat, walk outside for 20 seconds, return and give treat | 5x |
| 5f | Close door, feed 1 treat, walk outside for 30 seconds, return and give treat | 5x |

To finish out step 5, build up time using food, treats or chews. Your dog should be happy to chew their bone/eat their treat in their crate then relax and take a nap until you return. Start with short absences and work your way up. Stay close by and listen for signs of distress. To set yourself up for success, make sure your dog is exhausted before you leave them in there for longer than normal and that they have a great toy/chew to take their mind off things.

