Dog Crate Overview: Wire or Plastic?

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

Dogs are naturally den animals. If introduced correctly, a wire cage or plastic crate provides a sense of security - a refuge where your dog can go whenever he needs to get away from the high activity level of your home or just wants some peace and quiet.

ADVANTAGES OF WIRE CAGES

Many wire cages are collapsible, fold & carry styles, making them easier to store and transport. Wire cages can be sized to your growing dog with removable divider panels that expand living space. Wire cages are easier to clean - particularly cages with the new, seamless style polyethylene floor pans. They offer better ventilation and provide better visibility for your pet. A wire cage needs to be sturdy and escape-proof - just like our Gorilla Tough cages. You have a choice of a perfect at-home Elite Classic 3 Door Dog Crate or an at-home/travel Compact Dog Crate. Both have durable, easy-clean polyethylene trays and cam-type locks that thwart the smartest dog's escape attempts.

ADVANTAGES OF PLASTIC CRATES

If you travel with your pet by plane, plastic crates are required by law. Also, some owners feel plastic crates provide a greater sense of security and privacy. A plastic crate may be useful for high-activity households, particularly those with young children. A durable, airline-compliant choice is our Pet Den®, with flow-through ventilation on all sides, secure door locks and perfect-fit food/water cups.

SIZE

The right size cage is one in which your pet can lie down, turn around, and have three to four inches of extra head space when sitting or standing. While the right-sized cage may seem too confining or too small to you, it isn't for your dog.

Special note for puppy owners: If you put your puppy in a crate that's too large, your pup may eliminate in a "remote" corner. Either buy a puppy cage you will only use for training, or buy a cage that you can use throughout your dog's life and add a safe divider panel when the dog is smaller to reduce the area to the appropriate size.

If you feel uneasy about caging your dog, we strongly encourage you to talk to your veterinarian, professional trainer, or other pet owners who have used cages. Anyone

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who knows dogs will know the value of cages.

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