Dog Cages and Crates: Why do Pets Need One?

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

what you should know about

cages & crates

For many pet owners, the idea of caging or crating a pet seems cruel and restrictive, but when used correctly cages and crates offer your pet security and safety, and teach appropriate behavior. Offering your dog a place of his own can be beneficial to both you and your pet.

give your pet a place of his own

Properly crate-trained dogs see crates as safe dens where they can relax. Being in the crate should always be a positive experience, with something interesting to do or play with. For added reassurance, spray the inside of the crate with Comfort Zone® Spray which mimics the pheromones a nursing mother dog gives off to calm her pups.

reinforce appropriate behavior

Although properly housebreaking a puppy will still involve many trips outside, a crate is a very helpful tool. Puppies typically won't eliminate in the crate, so housebreaking is much easier if you crate train. Also, dogs that are crate trained are typically happier when taken to the vet, groomer, or anywhere else where being crated or kenneled is required.

increase safety at home and on the road

Younger animals can be destructive to household items when left alone unsupervised, and may harm themselves by chewing on light cords or eating poisonous plants. Cages and crates keep your pet and your home safer while you are away. They also keep your pet secure during travel. A loose pet in the car can be distracting and dangerous. If you get into an accident or have to stop suddenly, the pet will be much safer in the confines of a cage or crate. And to fly, your pet will need to be in an airline-approved crate. Condition him to the crate before the trip for smoother travel.

which crate or cage is best?

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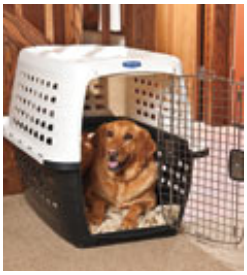
To determine the size and type of crate or cage for your pet, measure the space your pet uses when laying down, then add another 8 to 12 inches in length. Make sure the cage is tall enough to accommodate your pet when he is standing up. If you have a growing puppy, a metal cage with divider panels will let you adjust the interior size of the crate as your pet grows. Fold and carry models break down easily for storage or transportation and offer better ventilation than plastic cages. For the ultimate in comfort, security, and value, choose a hard plastic crate. It seems that dogs prefer them; you will often find them sleeping in a plastic crate, more so than a wire one. Dogs often feel more comfortable within the solid-walled structures.

Plastic Crate	Wire Cage	Soft Crate
		
Compass Kennels	Drs. Foster & Smith Elite Classic 3 Door Dog Crate	Deluxe Soft Crate
(watch video)		(watch video)

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