

# Dog Cages and Crates: Why do Pets Need One?

*Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff*



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 [Adaptil® Happy Home Spray](#) which mimics the pheromones a nursing mother dog gives off to calm her pups.

*Martin R. Smith DVM*



## 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?

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.

## Recommended Products



Compass Kennels

(watch video 🟡)



Drs. Foster & Smith  
Elite Classic 3 Door Dog Crate



Deluxe Soft Crate

(watch video 🟡)

How to Select a Crate  
for Air Travel with Pets

Deluxe Soft Crate