



CRATE TRAINING



ANIMAL HOSPITAL
OF LEWISVILLE

At our veterinary hospital, it's important we educate our clients about how crate training can help correct behavior issues, calm anxiety, and create a positive association through the use of treats and games.

SELECT THE BEST CRATE

Plastic or Portable Crate (*ideal for small/medium pets for travel*)

Wire-Foldable Crate (*easy to clean and come in a variety of sizes*)

Soft-Sided Crate (*more destructible, not ideal for beginners*)

Heavy-Duty Crates (*for larger breeds and escape artists*)

CHOOSING THE CRATE SIZE

LENGTH

When your pet is standing on all fours, measure them from the tip of their nose to the base of their tail

- Do not include their full tail length in this measurement — this will result in a crate that is too large
- Add 2 to 4 inches to this measurement for the best length for a dog

HEIGHT

When your pet is in a "sit" position, measure from the floor to the top of their head

- Add 2 to 4 inches to this measurement for the minimum height needed for your pet's crate

WIDTH

You do not need to measure for the width of the crate, as this is based on the length and height measurements of the crate

WEIGHT

Double-check that your pet is within the manufacturer's recommended weight limit for the crate you choose, especially if you're carrying the crate with your pet inside it

 [AnimalHospitalOfLewisville.com](https://www.AnimalHospitalOfLewisville.com)

 6260 Shallowford Rd
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HELPFUL TIPS*

CRATES CAN "GROW" WITH YOUR PUPPY

Crates exist that include a divider panel that you can use to make the crate space "grow" with your pup and reduce having to buy additional crates as they get bigger.

ESTABLISH THE PROPER MINDSET

If you crate your dog when they're calm, they will likely view their crate as a place of rest. Start by bringing them in for 10 minutes at a time and work your way up from there.

DOGS ACTUALLY DO PREFER HARD SURFACES

Be careful of your pet chewing a blanket.

GIVE YOUR DOG A TREAT AFTER THEY GO IN

Positive association rules.

KEEP AN EYE ON THE TIME

Your dog will always need time outside the crate to play, eat, and go potty.

PLAY CRATE GAMES

The crate should not be a negative place. Create fun games where your pup goes in and out of the open crate at their own will for a treat.

KEEP YOUR DOG "NAKED"

Remove collars, tags or anything on them when they're in the crate. This helps avoid choking hazards.

SET YOUR DOG UP FOR SUCCESS

Crate train in small time intervals. Go for a 30 minute errand and when you come back, reward them.

BE PATIENT

Prepare for at least 6 months of training. Be patient and consistent. Eventually you and your dog will see the "reward."

**Additional resources can be found: <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/how-to-crate-train-your-dog-in-9-easy-steps/>*



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