



# WHAT'S WRONG WITH CRATING?

There are many misconceptions about crating. For detailed information, visit [PETA.org](http://PETA.org).

## A crate will not help your puppy learn to "hold it."

Puppies aren't that different from human babies—they can't "hold it" for their first few months of life, so they need regular and frequent elimination breaks.

## Crates do not promote a feeling of security.

On the contrary, they often cause separation anxiety, fearfulness, depression, "cage rage," hyperactivity, and other types of behavioral problems.

## A crate is not similar to a playpen, crib, or den.

Being locked inside a crate for hours on end is solitary confinement, which prevents dogs from engaging in basic normal activities and learning. Instead, provide a puppy-proofed room, interactive toys (such as Kongs smeared with peanut butter), and regular and frequent elimination breaks. This will promote a happy and healthy relationship between you and your canine companion.

## Dogs don't "love" their crates.

They love YOU and will do what you ask, but they really want to be by your side, not locked behind bars.



## No more denial!

A crate is nothing more than a convenience tool for humans, and its use does not benefit dogs' well-being. No animal wants to be locked inside a cage—including your dog.

# HOUSETRAINING YOUR DOG

With patience, a regular schedule, and careful attention to your dog's body language, housetraining can be a snap.

## 🐾 Establish a schedule right away. 🐾

Take Fido outside first thing in the morning, within 15 minutes of eating or drinking, immediately after napping or playing, and right before bedtime. Have him sleep in your bedroom at night, so you will be alerted if he wakes up and needs to go outside. Puppies often can't make it through the night without needing a bathroom break.

## 🐾 Use a designated outdoor area. 🐾

Having a specific "elimination area" helps to reinforce good behavior, and dogs are more likely to use it after playing or going for a walk. Always praise Fido *after* he does his business and give him a tasty treat.



## 🐾 Pay attention. 🐾

While indoors, if he starts sniffing around, whining, scratching at the door, or going in circles, calmly take him outside right away.

## 🐾 Be patient. 🐾

Puppies, like human infants, can't "hold it" for very long, so they need frequent elimination breaks and time to learn.

## 🐾 Be consistent. 🐾

Maintain a regular schedule of feeding and "bathroom breaks." Most dogs will catch on within a matter of days.

## 🐾 Never hit, yell at, or otherwise reprimand dogs who have "accidents." 🐾

Instead of teaching them to communicate their need to go outside, punishment of any kind will just teach them not to eliminate in front of you and, worse, to fear you. Housetraining works best through prevention (by taking your dog out often) coupled with lavish praise for eliminating outdoors.

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