

Evaluation Item: Crate ▾

Evaluator Level: Green ▾

# Introducing the Crate

Not all dogs will need to be comfortable in a crate, but it never hurts to practice! Even if your dog doesn't have to be in a crate normally, the crate is a great tool to have in case of emergency.

1. Identify a reward the dog really likes at that moment. This is usually a toy or a treat.
  - a. If you do use a toy, make sure it's something that won't startle the dog if it bounces off of the crate.
2. Set up the crate in an open space where the dog can get to all four sides of the crate. Try leaving the door open and just letting the dog investigate for a few minutes before doing anything else.
3. Stand a bit away from the crate, and toss the reward against one of the sides of the crate so it bounces off slightly and the dog can eat it.
4. Repeat this until the dog is confidently approaching the crate.
5. Toss a reward just inside of the crate. (This will test your aim!) Let the dog get it, and then immediately walk out.
6. Repeat this until the dog is confidently entering the crate to get rewards.
7. Do not close the door yet! We want to build up a HUGE positive association with going into the crate before we actually close the door.

## Adopter Highlight

This activity is a great way to discuss the values of crate training while doing a fun "target practice" game with adopters. Let them practice their aim with their rewards while you talk about the benefits of crate training. Talk about whether or not they'll need a crate everyday or if they just need a crate for emergencies. Talk about types of crates available, and what sort of safe activities are available to do inside the crate. Build a positive association with the crate for the adopters as well!

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