

CAN I
PLEASE HAVE
A CRATE!

I promise
I'll LOVE
it!



Play To Behave's
STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS
TO GET YOUR DOG TO LOVE THEIR CRATE



Crate or Den Training

Repeat each exercise 10-20 times in each step for each training session
until ready for next step and/or mix the steps up
(see the free companion download for choosing a crate [here](#))

Step 1	Repeat each 10-20 times	Make great things happen in the space (crate or area of confinement) including: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Meals2. Chew toys/bones3. Puzzles4. When playing fetch, throw the toy in the crate
Step 2	Repeat each 10-20 times	Play games and/or train tricks that involve the crate: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Fetch (as mentioned above)2. Hide treat or toy under blanket/mat inside crate and ask him to "Find It"3. Have sit/stay in crate with door open then release to fetch toy or treat – use RELEASE word4. Place toy at distance, have him sit/stay in crate and then release to toy or treat – use RELEASE word5. Sit/stay away from crate, then throw toy or treat in and release to go get it6. Do same as in 5 but stand behind crate and give treat reward in the back of the crate through the bars when he runs in7. Sit/stay away from crate while you go to crate and put treat or toy in crate, go back to your dog, hold collar and "rev" him up ("Ready? Ready? READY?") then let go with RELEASE WORD and "Go get it!"
Step 3	Repeat each 10-20 times	Play similar games as in Step 2 but start closing and opening the door as part of the game. If you dog becomes anxious then that means they aren't ready for a closed door or for the time you kept it closed. Back off by only closing it part of the way and/or opening it faster. LET YOUR DOG GO AT HIS OWN SPEED – NO RUSH!
Step 4	Repeat each 10-20 times	Add the word "crate" or "cage" or "den" or "go to bed" or "place" if you haven't already. They will not understand the word at first but will begin to associate it with the crate or area.
Step 5	Repeat each 10-20 times	Start sending to the crate "Go cage". If you need to, move closer until they understand and go quickly and freely.
Step 6	Repeat each 10-20 times	Start closing the door more and for random amounts of time. If your dog gets upset, then it was too long.



<p>Step 7</p>	<p>Repeat each 10-20 times</p>	<p>Ask for a sit before you open the door when you think they can handle it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reward the sit with kibble or treat then open the door • Later wean off the reward and only open the door if sitting – if they get up, you simply and gently close the door and say “oops!” • If they won’t stay sitting long enough to open the door either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Open the door faster so they won’t fail! ◆ OR give up and leave them in there – walk away and come back to try again – think to yourself “Guess you aren’t ready to come out yet!” • Sitting before release should also be expected at the door for outside so if not, make sure you are doing this and anywhere else you can – your dog is learning to say “Please”. • Make sure you use your RELEASE WORD
<p>Step 8</p>	<p>Repeat each 10-20 times</p>	<p>If shooting out of the crate, then start rewarding with food or tugging right after they exit. Your dog should look up at you when they exit the crate for what is next</p>
<p>Step 9</p>	<p>Repeat each 10-20 times</p>	<p>You should be able to send your dog to the crate, close the door and leave him in for some time now. <u>You may want to add a cover.</u> Then add:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Distance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ could mean leaving the room while he is in the crate ◆ sending him to the crate from farther away ◆ Distraction while he is in the crate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Jumping up and down ◆ Throwing a toy ◆ Talking on the phone ◆ Hugging a family member ◆ Having people over in the same room or another room ◆ Continue to add as he can tolerate more

Remember!!! Set Your Dog Up For Success!!!

As you go through the steps, if he gets upset, you need to back down the criteria and make it easier.