

Crate Training is it Cruel?

Many people feel that it is cruel to crate their dog, and especially a puppy, for any amount of time. Yet most dog trainers will agree that it is no crueller than it is to leave a baby in a playpen or crib. Both allow the peace of mind knowing that they are safe when you are unable to supervise them. This is two-fold for puppies. Not only can you be guaranteed that they are safe when you are not home but so is your furniture, shoes, electrical cords... well, you get the picture.

Could there be any other reason to crate train if your dog is past the puppy stage? Let's see the following...

When traveling in a vehicle, crates do for your animals like what seat belts do for us. Not only do crates help keep them safe but they also help with the safety of the driver and other passengers. A roaming dog, or cat, can be of great distraction to a driver and if an accident does occur they can be a dangerous projectile object. Many animals that have been involved in accidents that have not been confined have ended up being lost since they are typically dazed, scared and confused so when emergency response teams get to the scene their first inclination is to run.

Unfortunately there are times that animals become sick and need extended care at the vet's office. The last thing you want is to add to your dog's stress. By introducing the crate successfully beforehand he will be more relaxed being kennelled and left at your veterinarian's than if this is his first experience in a crate. As we know, stress is a large factor in lowering the body's immune system thereby slowing its ability to combat disease and recover from surgeries.

Even though we at times don't plan for it, the inevitable does happen. Between life's emergencies, or longer vacations that force us to leave our pets behind, leaving our dogs at a kennel soon becomes a necessity instead of a convenience.

So, when weighing all the options and understanding some of the reasons behind it, teaching them to enjoy a crate becomes a very sound and inexpensive investment, much cheaper than replacing your drywall or kitchen cupboards!

Next, learn how to crate train successfully!

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