

## Training Plan: Crate Training

**Time:** 5 to 15-minute sessions

**Supplies:** Crate, treats, treat bag, and clicker (optional)

**Goals:** To help animals become comfortable with entering and spending time inside a crate.

### Instructions:

- Have a crate present, open, and available for the animal in their enclosure or other areas where they spend time
- Feed the animal's meals inside their crate
- Provide the animal's enrichment inside of their crate, including food enrichment and toys
- Place a mat or blanket inside the crate

### Level 1:

1. Make sure the door to the crate is open
2. While the animal's attention is on you, drop treats inside the crate
3. While the animal enters and remains in the crate, continue to toss treats into the crate for 1-10 seconds
  - a. Reinforce every time the animal voluntarily enters or stays in the crate
4. Give a release cue and coax the animal out
5. Do this until the animal will remain in the crate for 10 seconds while consuming treats

### Level 2:

1. Start with the animal's crate door shut
2. While the animal's attention is on you and with the crate door closed, drop treats inside the crate
  - a. The animal should move around the crate, attempting to enter
3. While the animal is attempting to get inside the crate, give the verbal cue "crate," then open the door, allowing the animal into the crate
4. While the animal remains in the crate, continue to toss treats into the crate every 2-3 seconds
  - a. Slowly increase the duration of time in the crate up to 30 seconds
  - b. Continue to toss treats into the crate every 2-3 seconds
5. Give a release cue and coax the animal out
6. Do this until the animal is waiting at the crate door, entering the crate, and remaining in the crate for 30 seconds

**Level 3:**

1. Start with the animal's crate door shut
2. With the crate door closed, give the verbal cue "crate" and open the door of the crate
3. If the dog enters the crate, mark and reinforce the dog with a small handful of treats
  - a. If the dog does not enter the crate when the door is opened, return to Level 2
4. While the dog remains in the crate, toss treats into the crate every 3-10 seconds
  - a. Slowly increase the duration of time in the crate up to 60 seconds
  - b. Continue to toss treats into the crate every 3-10 seconds
5. Give a release cue and coax the animal out
6. Do this until the animal is waiting at the crate door, entering the crate, and remaining in the crate for 60 seconds

**Level 4:**

1. With the crate door closed, give the verbal cue "crate" and open the door of the crate.
2. When the dog enters the crate, close the crate door, mark and reinforce the dog with a small handful of treats
3. Build duration inside the crate by:
  - Increasing the number of treats used to increase the duration of time.
  - Slowing the rate of reinforcement to increase the amount of time in between treat deliveries.
  - Introduce a Pet Tutor or alternative treat delivery system so that you can step away
  - Providing the dog with enrichment, chews, or a meal while they are in the crate to engage with

**Reminders:**

- Place a mat or blanket inside the crate to encourage settling
- Level 4 is the most challenging and is likely to take up the most time