

CRATE TRAINING ADULT DOGS

Crate training is important for fostering. It can keep your foster dog safe and secure.

It is normal for dogs to whine or cry for 15-30 minutes after being crated. As they become more comfortable with the routine, this will likely cease.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- **Crate location** - some dogs want to be where the action is, other dogs need a quiet space away from the hustle and bustle. If your dog does best with a quiet space, you can place a sheet or blanket over their crate to make a “den.” The ideal place for a crate depends on your house setup and dog. You may need to try some different spots to see what works best.
- Feed your dog **meals only in their crate**. Do not let other dogs near the crate when your dog is eating.
- Crate your dog when they are not supervised (i.e. when you leave the house). Only give safe high value items like Kongs in the crate.
- If an adult dog is struggling with crating, practice with short amounts of time in the crate. Coax them into the crate with treats, praise them and then leave them for a short period of time. Repeat. Your coming back each time will help them learn to trust that you will come back.
- If your dog shreds blankets or sheets, do not allow them in the crate. This can be a medical hazard if they are ingested. While it may seem uncomfortable to you, it is safest for a dog who eats blankets to stay in a bare crate.
- If the dog is barking, do not talk to them. This reinforces the behavior.

There is no “one size fits all” solution for crate training. If you are struggling, reach out and connect with your foster team. The foster team may be able to offer additional solutions based on your needs.

