

# ELEMENT DOG TRAINING

## Crate Training

- Definition
  - Teaches your dog to voluntarily enter and calm down in their crate
- Purpose
  - Provides your dog a safe zone and provides you a safe place to contain your dog
- Process
  - For dogs that happily go in the kennel, let you shut the door, and relax – your dog is crate trained. For dogs that are hesitant or nervous, we want to create a positive association with the kennel
  - Start by opening all of the kennel doors to create as wide open a space as possible
  - Reward the dog for going near the kennel. Slowly move the rewards closer and closer to the kennel entrance
  - Transition to placing the rewards in the kennel. Start with it just far enough inside the kennel that the dog has to lean in to get it
  - Continue to place the treat farther into the kennel until the dog has to walk all the way into the kennel to get it
  - Start closing the auxiliary exits so that the dog only uses the main entrance. Continue providing a reward to entice the dog to enter the kennel
  - Start holding on to the reward and use it lure the dog into the kennel. Wait 1 or 2 seconds after the dog enters before rewarding the dog and then let the dog leave the kennel
  - Continue extending the duration inside the kennel and once you can get 5-10 seconds start asking your dog to down after entering
  - Once the dog is happily going into the kennel and laying down you can start the process of closing the door. Start by partially closing the door and then immediately reopening it. Reward liberally as you gradually move the door closer and closer to being fully closed
  - Continue to build the duration on the closed kennel until the dogs learns to happily enter and relax.



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- [VetStreet video Crate Training](#)
  - [http://www.vetstreet.com/our-pet-experts/step-by-step-guide-to-crate-training-your-dog#0\\_zet87z8t](http://www.vetstreet.com/our-pet-experts/step-by-step-guide-to-crate-training-your-dog#0_zet87z8t)
- Common mistakes when teaching crate training:
  - Only using the crate as a punishment
  - Only putting the dog in the crate when they are going to be left alone
  - Using a flooding technique to train the dog. Flooding is where the dog is forced into the kennel before they are comfortable and left in it while they are forced to adjust. This technique risks making the dog's fear or anxiousness with the kennel significantly worse

