



Crate Games

Here is how we teach dogs to love going in their crate, and more importantly, to love staying in their crate.

To play:

Sit in front of your puppy's crate with a tub of something tasty (for the dog not you!)

1. Show your puppy a treat and throw a treat into their crate (you can add a verbal cue here such as 'in your crate' or 'bed' just before you throw the treat)

2. Before they have a chance to turn around and come out of the crate, throw another treat in. Do this a few more times so they stay in snuffling.

3. Now we're ready to 'release them'. When they've finished eating treats but before they have a chance to walk out of the crate, tell them 'okay' and roll a treat along the floor out of the crate.

4. Pause and see if they head back to the crate themselves, if they do shower them with rewards. If not repeat steps 1-3 a few more times.

5. When they're bouncing into their crate happily we can start to ask them to stay in a little longer and settle...

Next time they're in their crate, ask them to lay down. (If they don't know down yet a sit will do)

Reward them between their front feet in rapid fire succession.

6. Start to slow down the treats. Count one in your head and place a treat down, then two and place a treat down, keep counting gradually adding a tiny bit more time between treats. The aim is to get to 300 (though not in the first session.)

If they stand up, ask them to lay down and start back at one again.

7. If you feel them getting fidgety or they're struggling to get past a certain number, release them with your 'okay' just before that number or as they start to fidget.

You can add extra value to the crate by playing the role of crate fairy and sneaking chews or treats into the crate when your puppy is doing something else. This means next time they walk past they'll catch the scent and get a lovely surprise in their crate.