

A Review for the Rest of Us

Why Crate Train Your Dog?

by L.M. Shannon-Chaillet
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Sounds cruel, eh? I can hear your thoughts now, "Cage my dog! How dare you even mention it! He is a member of the family and HE WILL NOT NEED A CRATE. He is such a good dog! He would not hurt a fly!

And I feel your thoughts of agitation as you picture confining your precious four-legged family member. While at the same time I am envisioning torn cushions, chewed table legs, broken vases from the dog bumping into a table and excrement right in the middle of your new rug.




Worse thought of all, your canine has eaten all of your blood pressure medication that you left on your nightstand. All because "He's such a good dog" and "Would not hurt a fly!"

All because YOU decided that a crate was cruel and YOU left your dog unkenneled, as well as, unattended.

A dog is still a dog. And dogs have a funny way of perceiving their world.

Okay, you want to humanize your four-legged family member, then let's humanize. I want you to think about a crate in this manner. When you were raising your children (or just observing your mom and dad raising your siblings) did you not use a playpen to ensure your child's safety while you worked around the house? Or, how about when you ran out for the mail? Or, to let the dog out to go potty? To give yourself some free time? Or, most importantly, to help your older child with his or her homework?

That is what your dog's crate is to him...a playpen and much, much more. You, as a responsible dog owner, must practice looking and thinking about a crate through your dog's eyes. He will view this metal or plastic kennel as...

-  A Den - That's right. A home to call his own. A place of safety from unsupervised children and other animals. A bed in which to rest.
-  A Feeding Station - This is where the food is served, bones are munched on, and dog treats are safe from other family animals.
-  A Hospital Intensive Care Unit - Should your dog become sick, he can recuperate in his own personal isolation hospital bed. He is still with the family, yet he is in a quiet supervised hospital bed where his loving family can watch and aid him.

- 🐾 A Traveling Hotel - Wherever the dog goes, so too goes his bed and home. The dog feels secure and it makes traveling in the car, van or truck so much safer for everyone. You will find that camping and moteling with your dog in his crate a breeze.
- 🐾 5. A Doggie Safety Belt While Traveling in the Car - Should you have to stop suddenly or have an impact with another car or truck, you will not have a flying canine missile hitting you from behind or going through the car window.

FYI - Police and/or Rescue personal are not faulted should they deem it necessary to destroy an un-crated canine while trying to help you or your family in a car accident.

Through your eyes you will begin to understand that your dog's crate is a CANINE GOOD MANNER TRAINING TOOL for:

1. Potty Training
2. Safe and Controlled Feasting when other family animals are around or event if they are not around.
3. Safe and Controlled Introductions of new humans and new animals.
4. Safe and Controlled Environment for when you must leave home for any reason.
 - Leave the dog at the vets overnight for any reason.
 - Travel in the car, van or truck to new destinations.
 - Emergency Transportation.
 - For "Doggie Time Outs" when things get too rambunctious and/or you and your canine become too stressed out with life.
5. A Sense of Security for Your Four-Legged Canine Family Member - Should you become ill and/or incapacitated and a friend must look after your dog, the dog's sense of security remains intact with his crate.

Oh, don't get me wrong. A dog should have freedom. But that freedom comes with an understanding of RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP and the teaching of CANINE GOOD MANNERS.

And, let's not lose sight of the fact that leaving your dog in his crate for more than eight hours can border on being cruel and inhumane. Again, crate training, along with its pros and cons, comes from understanding what constitutes RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP.

Still think a crate is cruel? Then all I can ask is this...Your car and home owner's insurance policies are paid up, are they not? Think about it.

Linda Shannon-Chaillet and the Shannollet Clan of Sam, CGC, TDI; Charlevoix, CGC, TDI; (The Newfs of the Clan) and Tugalug Foxmore, CGC TDI (The little "Brown Dog" who thinks he's a Newf!)

Motto - God never sends an animal or human being my way without a reason. I just have to listen harder to the animal.