



## What's Wrong With Crating Dogs and Puppies?



Most people don't realize that animals who are caged for extended periods of time often become aggressive, withdrawn, hyperactive, and/or severely depressed, and they can also develop other problems, such as eating disorders. Crating for extended periods of time prevents dogs from fulfilling some of their most basic needs, including walking around, relieving themselves, and stretching.

There are numerous humane alternatives to crating for people whose schedules force them to leave their canine companions at home during the workday, including humane training, which teaches guardians effective ways to communicate with their animal companions. It is also vital that dogs get plenty of exercise, preferably in the morning (at least 45 minutes for a young dog)—tired dogs want to sleep, not “redecorate” the living room. Dogs should get at least one long walk every day, as well as several shorter walks and vigorous play

sessions.

**WHAT'S WRONG WITH CRATING?**

There are many misconceptions about crating. For detailed information, visit [PETA.org](http://PETA.org).

- A crate will not help your puppy learn to "hold it."**  
Puppies aren't that different from human babies—they can't "hold it" for their first few months of life, so they need regular and frequent elimination breaks.
- Crates do not promote a feeling of security.**  
On the contrary, they often cause separation anxiety, fearfulness, depression, "rage rage," hyperactivity, and other types of behavioral problems.
- A crate is not similar to a playpen, crib, or den.**  
Being locked inside a crate for hours on end is solitary confinement, which prevents dogs from engaging in basic normal activities and learning. Instead, provide a puppy-proofed room, interactive toys (such as Kongs) smeared with peanut butter, and regular and frequent elimination breaks. This will promote a happy and healthy relationship between you and your canine companion.
- Dogs don't "love" their crates.**  
They love YOU and will do what you ask, but they really want to be by your side, not locked behind bars.
- No more denial!**  
A crate is nothing more than a convenience tool for humans, and its use does not benefit dogs' well-being. No animal wants to be locked inside a cage—including your dog.

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Dogs should not be expected to “hold it” all day while their guardians are at work. If you cannot return home during the day to provide a bathroom break for your dog, we recommend hiring a reputable dog-walking or pet-sitting service or asking a reliable friend or neighbor to take your dog out for a midday walk. A “doggie door” that provides access to a secure, fenced yard can also give dogs a way to relieve themselves and alleviate boredom, which will help prevent neuroses. And doggie daycare centers are popping up all over—they can provide dogs with a fun and safe place to socialize and enjoy their time while their guardians are away.

### Additional Resources

- Crating Dogs and Puppies
- How to Win Friends and Influence People Not to Crate Their Dogs

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