



Introducing the Kennel

The purpose of the kennel is to make it a safe and comfortable place to relax. The kennel will aid you in teaching good house manners, and providing a safe environment when you cannot supervise the puppy. Puppies should learn to remain calm, not vocalize, nor relieve themselves while in the kennel. Puppies should **never** be placed in a kennel with a collar, vest, or leash on.

Tips for Success:

- All meals should be fed in the kennel until the puppy is eagerly entering the kennel.
- USVSD provides you with a 36inch kennel. In the package, there will also be a kennel divider. This divider should be placed where the puppy has just enough room to turn around and lay down (too much room will allow the puppy to have accidents). As the puppy grows and is more reliable, the divider will be moved back and taken out.
- There should not be any blankets or dog beds placed in the kennel at the beginning of crate training. These can be easily torn up and choked on.
- Give the puppy a Nylabone or lumabone (or similar) while they are in the kennel.
- If you haven't had the chance to start the foundations of crate games, and the puppy has to be left in the kennel for more than 15- 20 minutes, make sure to give them a food stuffed Kong or similar bone. For the stuffed kong, soak kibble in water and then place in bone, these are great to keep on hand in the freezer!
- Perform a kennel training session before you place the puppy in the kennel.

If a puppy begins to vocalize in a kennel and you do feel as though they need to relieve themselves, do NOT let them out of the kennel. Once they stop vocalizing and relax, the kennel can be opened. This is to ensure no bad habits are rewarded and carried on into the future. Soon, you will see the puppy seeking out their kennel for mealtimes and when needing to take a rest!



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Training Sessions:

When training with the kennel do not ask the puppy to do other commands. Every behavior should be lured.

- Place the kennel in a quiet environment
- Lure the puppy into the kennel and reward the puppy by dropping the kibble once it reaches the back (Do this at least 10 times)
- After doing this a couple times and the puppy is comfortable entering and exiting the kennel, you will continue to drop food at the back of the kennel, but this time when the puppy turns around you will reward them again. (If the puppy chooses to leave the kennel let them, if they stay for a few second reward again)
- After an additional few rounds, up the criteria for reward. This time allow the puppy to walk in the kennel on their own and reward once they turn around.
- Once the puppy understands this, while the puppy is eating the kibble in the back close the crate door. Reward the puppy through the door while its closed
- After about 5 seconds open the door and repeat this process repeat this process several times.
- Next, up the criteria again. This time stand up and take a step away from the kennel. Go back and reward.
- Continue this process by adding distance, exiting the room, and placing the kennel in new environments

Note: this process should be broken up over many training sessions. It will take time for the puppy to be able to handle you leaving the room for extended period of time. The more you practice the quicker your results should appear.