

# The Ultimate Guide: Dog Crates and Travel Safety



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# Introduction



Crate training, recommended by many veterinarians, trainers, and dog owners, is intended to help with house training and behaviour management. It also provides a secure, private area for a puppy or new dog, both at home and while travelling.

A crate provides a den-like space that feels safe for your pet and if appropriately instituted, it can benefit your dog and you. Crates also provide safe ways to transport pets by car and plane. Section 3 in this ebook is of particular importance.

In this ebook we'll share the best ways to get started with crates.

“*Crates provide a safe and secure private area for your dog while also providing the safest way possible to transport them on car trips or by plane.*”

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# 01 The Benefits of Crate Training

**Safety:** You don't want your puppy or dog getting into dangerous situations when you cannot keep an eye on them. A crate will protect them from chewing on hazardous things or other harmful behaviours. If you need to leave your dog unsupervised for short periods its a good way of keeping them safe. Most dogs feel happy and secure in their crate which can reduce anxiety in your absence.

**House Training:** Puppies are not born knowing where to relieve their bladders. You have to help them learn, and a crate will assist you in doing that. Dogs shy away from urinating or defecating where they sleep, but if they are in the right-sized cage, they will not empty their bladders there.

**Travel:** It's dangerous for you and your dog to leave your dog unsecured in the car while you're driving. Having your pet comfortable and secure in a crate is much better.



# 02

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## Choosing the Right Crate

*It's important to choose the right-sized crate*



For car crates, one useful guide is to measure your dogs sitting height and length without the tail, and add 3-4 inches to both measurements. The approximate length and height of the crate can be determined from those measurements. The length and height of the crate will determine the width. For travel crates there should not be so much room that the dog can slide around. For indoor crates that a dog will spend a longer time in, its fine to have 10-15 inches extra length in the crates.

For puppies try a crate with a divider so the crate size can be adjusted as they grow.

Obviously you should check the size of the space in your home and/or vehicle to make sure the crate will fit. Crates are best positioned in a quiet area in the house, rather than a main thoroughfare. A cozy, draft free area away from noisy appliances and general busyness is best.

# An Indoor Crate Sizing Chart

## Dog Crate Sizes

Breed	Length	Height	Crate (Approx)
Yorkshire Terrier	11 inches	8 inches	24 x 18 x 19
Dachshund	16 inches	9 inches	30 x 19 x 21
Border Collie	22 inches	22 inches	36 x 23 x 25
Bulldog	18 inches	16 inches	30 x 19 x 21
Golden Retriever	27 inches	24 inches	42 x 28 x 30
German Shepherd	30 inches	26 inches	42 x 28 x 30
Great Dane	38 inches	34 inches	48 x 30 x 33



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The above chart is for indoor crates and furniture crates. Car travel and IATA crates are sized differently, as noted in the page before.

You don't want the crate to be so large that your dog can use one end as the bathroom. However, you want enough room for your pet to stand up, turn around, and lie down comfortably.

# Crate Materials: Metal, Plastic, Fabric

Crates can be made of metal, plastic, or even fabric. Each type has advantages and is suited to different situations. You need to consider your dog's size, behaviour, and the crate's main use. For example a solid walled crate can offer a sense of security for nervous dogs.

**Metal Crates:** More suitable for training and durability and *definitely a good idea for chewers and escape artists*. Collapsible aluminum crates, like Safe Crate by Dog Crate World, are becoming very popular as they are both durable and easy to transport. They are also IATA compliant for air travel.



## Selecting the Best Crate Material

- 1 Metal:** Durable and good for chewers and escape artists
- 2 Fabric:** Lightweight good for well trained and smaller dogs
- 3 Wood:** Indoor furniture crates for well behaved calm dogs—not a good choice for chewers!

## *There are crates that are better suited to chewers and escape artists vs calm and relaxed dogs*

**Fabric Crates:** Are lighter-weight, so they are very portable and good for calm, trained dogs, especially smaller ones.

**Wooden Crates:** There are some good and attractive wooden crates but *they are not for nervous chewers*. There is a wide range of indoor furniture crates for the home. They come in the form of end tables, dressers and bedside tables, the idea being that they blend into the home furnishings more than a more utilitarian style crate. They are not used for travelling however.

A good quality crate will have sufficient holes in three sides to assure that there is enough air for your dog.

The crate should have secure latches, preferably more than one.



# 03

## Training Your Dog to Feel Comfortable in the Crate



*Introduce the crate gradually. Start by making it welcoming. Put comfy bedding and safe toys inside the crate. You can even offer treats or feed your puppy dinner in the crate to create encouraging associations. Keep the door open and let your dog explore the crate slowly in the beginning. Use lots of positive reinforcement. Treats and praise can go a long way to encourage and praise your dog to enter the crate.*

Begin with leaving the door open and then for very short periods close the door. Slowly increase the time you keep the door closed. Of course, do this while you are home. Start to move away from the crate or step outside the room while they are busy playing or eating.

## Gradually Increase the Time

Gradually increase the time as your puppy gets more comfortable. To encourage your puppy in the beginning, start by feeding him meals in the crate. You can also put his favourite toys and treats in there to create a positive association.



## Consistency is the Goal

Regular crate time will help your pet get used to the crate. Initially, your puppy may cry or bark when put in the crate. It would be best to ignore the whining and barking as hard as it is. Wait until the dog is quiet before you let it out of the crate so they don't think that crying or barking gets them out.



## Bathroom Breaks

Be sure that your dog has had a chance to relieve itself and get a little exercise before putting it in the crate.



## Nighttime

For nighttime training, put the crate in your bedroom so, at least for now, your dog feels less alone. Regular bedtime routines can help your puppy know it's time to sleep.

*“A crate should be a positive place for your puppy, so never use it as punishment or they will develop an aversion to it.”*

## Safety Considerations

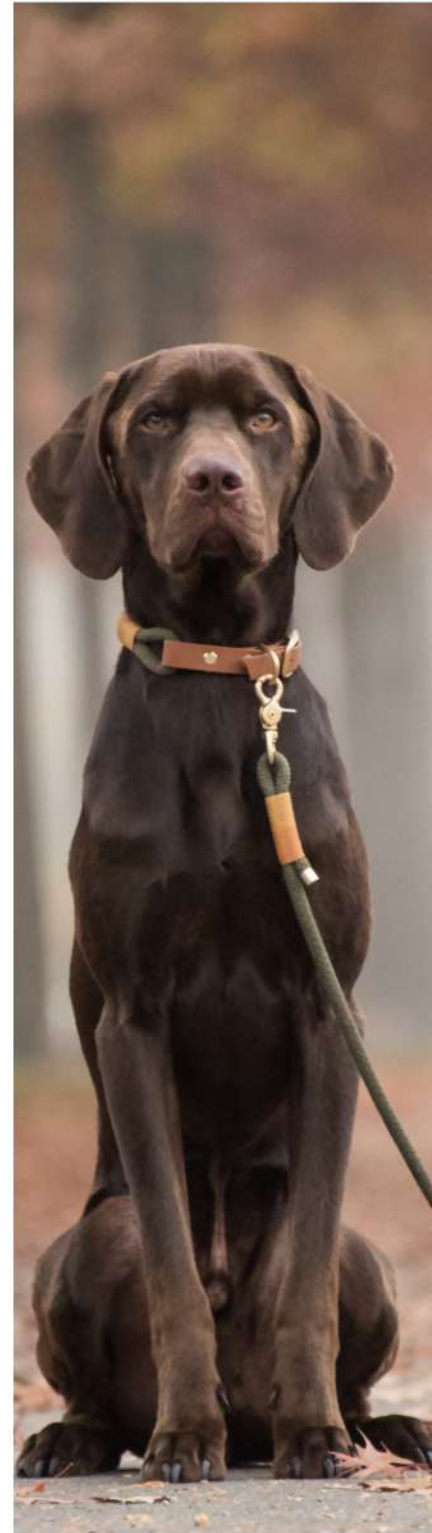
### To make sure the crate is a safe and secure place:

- Don't leave tags and collars on your dog. They can get caught on parts of the crate.
- Don't leave hazardous toys in the crate. Only leave durable toys the puppy cannot chew into small pieces and swallow. For aggressive chewers it is best not to leave them unsupervised with toys for any length of time.

## Rationing Time in the Crate

### It's vital to use the crate sparingly:

- Keep track of time in the crate. A puppy should not spend more than a few hours at a time in a crate during the day, depending on their training level and age.
- Make sure your pet gets lots of exercise and bonding time with you.
- Some dogs like to spend the night in their crate. Make sure they have a comfortable bed in the crate.





## Crate Training Older Dogs

Crate training an older dog may be a lengthier process if they have never been in a crate before.

**Go slow and be patient.** Older dogs may need more time to get used to a crate.

**Change your expectations.** Older dogs may have preexisting anxieties or fears.

Make sure the dog has access to the crate at all times, not just when you are going out.

**Don't leave the dog in the crate too long.** Providing the dog with interactive toys like puzzle feeders can help keep the experience positive.

“

*Go slow and be patient when crate training an old dog.*

## Common Mistakes to Avoid

When approached with patience and consistency, crate training can provide your dog with a sense of security and aids significantly in their overall training and behaviour. Most dogs actually enjoy using their crate due to the cozy den—like environment.

It's essential to monitor your dog's response to the crate and adjust your training approach to ensure the experience is positive and beneficial.

### Never Use the Crate as Punishment

As with puppies, never use the crate as punishment for your dog. This will make your pet have a negative association with it and can cause anxiety and fear.

### Don't Skip Steps

Gradual introduction and patience are crucial to successful crate training.

### Water in the Crate

Healthy dogs should not need a bowl of water in the crate if they have had free access to water immediately before going into the crate. Placing a bowl of water in the crate inevitably results in spilled water and wet bedding.





# 04

## Dog Crates Can Save Lives

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*When we think about car safety, seat belts, airbags, and child car seats typically come to mind. Yet, many pet owners overlook the safety of one of their most vulnerable passengers—their dog.*

## The Unconsidered Risks

Imagine you're driving at 30 miles per hour with your dog sitting unrestrained in the back seat. In the unfortunate event of a sudden stop or collision, your dog, even if it's small, could be propelled forward with incredible force.

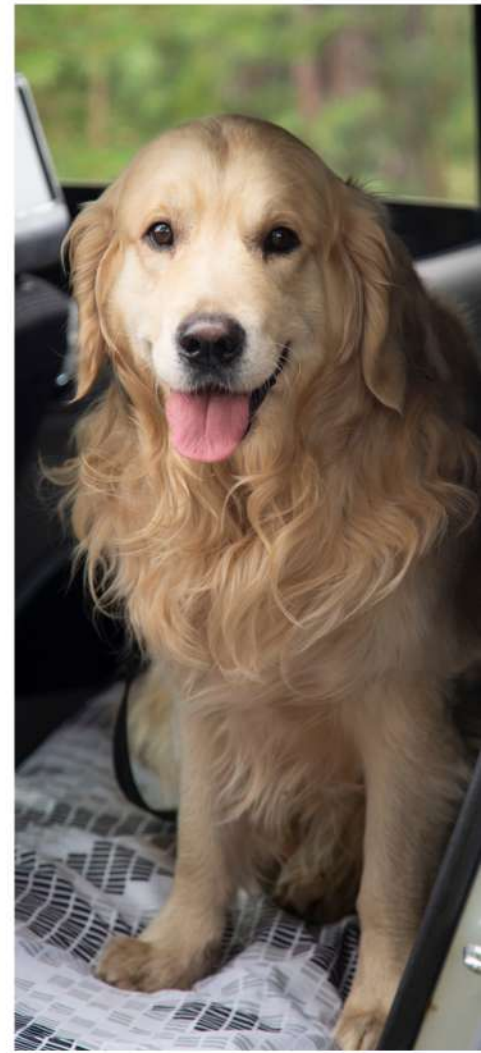
At just 30 mph, a 50-pound dog can exert a force of over 1,500 pounds in a crash. This can result in catastrophic injuries not only to the dog but to other passengers in the vehicle as well.

The idea of your beloved pet becoming a deadly projectile is shocking but all too real. 30 miles an hour is not very fast at all. The effects in a high speed crash are unimaginable and too horrible to contemplate.

A significant number of dog owners allow their pets to ride in vehicles unrestrained, not fully understanding the dangers this poses.

Its understandable why many prefer their dog to have the freedom to look around, stick its nose out of the window and basically have the same freedom we do while riding in a car.

The truth is, this seemingly harmless act can have devastating consequences for the dog and humans alike.



**At 30 mph, a  
50-pound dog  
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in a crash.**



## Tragic Reality in a Car Crash

Unrestrained dogs are not only at risk of severe injury or death in an accident but can also cause accidents. Dogs can be easily startled or excited by sudden movements or sounds, leading them to jump onto the driver's lap, block the driver's view, or even interfere with the steering. This can lead to a loss of control of the vehicle and potentially fatal consequences.

One of our family members had her small dog get under her leg while she was zooming around the farm pasture in an ATV. It caused her to lose control and crash through a wire fence at some speed. Nobody was hurt but imagine if that had been in a car on the highway!

Even in minor accidents, the aftermath can be tragic.

**An unrestrained dog that survives the initial impact can escape the vehicle in a state of panic. This often results in the dog running into traffic or getting lost, compounding the tragedy.**

## The Importance of a Well Made Dog Crate

The good news is that these dangers can be mitigated with proper precautions, the most effective being a strong dog crate. A well-designed crate not only prevents your dog from becoming a projectile but also provides a safe, secure space that can protect them from the impact of a collision.

Good crates are built to withstand the forces generated in a car crash. They are designed with strong walls and secure locking mechanisms that ensure the crate remains intact, even in severe accidents. This level of protection is crucial, as a flimsy or poorly secured crate can fail under pressure, rendering it useless in a crash.

There are crates designed specifically to fit in the back of an SUV or station wagon, [click here](#) for an example.



“  
*Good crates will  
withstand the forces  
generated in a car  
crash.*

# 05

## Dog Crates For Air Travel

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*If you are flying with a dog too large to be with you in the passenger compartment of the plane you will need the right kind of crate to go in the hold.*

*It s important to know that there are specific IATA (International Air Travel Association) requirements for dog crates and the last thing you want is to be turned away at the check in!*

# IATA Crate Requirements

## Internal Dimensions

**Crate Length** should be the length of the dog from the nose to the base of the tail PLUS half the length of the dogs leg. Strange but true!

**Crate Width** should be at least twice the width of the dog.

**Internal Height** should be at east the standing height of the dog plus the height of any bedding.

## Openings

Openings must be nose and paw proof and no bigger than 1 inch x 1 inch. This may require a special panel to be added to the door (See Safe Crate IATA door panel)

## Wheels

If the crate has wheels they must be removable



# IATA Requirements

*Continued*

## Crate Floor

The floor must be solid and leak proof.

## Crate Roof

The roof must be solid but may have ventilation holes if they do not affect the integrity of the roof.

## Spacer Bars

Spacer bars must be provided along both sides and the back of the container in order to prevent blocking of the ventilation holes.

## Handles

The crate must have handles for lifting.

## Door

The door should have at least two latches.

## Fasteners

Bolts and screws should not be made from plastic





### Safe Crate Assembly



### Safe Crate Collapse



- Quickly folds down to suitcase size
- Extra strong but light enough to carry with the comfortable spring loaded handle
- Stainless steel door latch with keys
- Excellent ventilation all four sides
- Lightweight and easy to setup and take down

**IATA Compliant**  
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# Non-Compliant IATA Crates

## Welded Wire Mesh Crates

Crates made entirely of welded wire mesh are not permitted.

## Rigid Plastic Crates

Rigid plastic crates may be acceptable but sometimes not for larger breeds so that needs to be checked. Solid metal is always a better option. Wood may be acceptable but a risky option as some airlines do not like them.

## Collapsible Fabric Crates

Soft collapsible fabric crates are not permitted but collapsible metal ones are, provided they have retaining bolts to prevent folding of the crate in the event of the crate airline side rails being dislodged. (See Dog Crate World Safe Crate)



## Dangerous & Strong Dogs

There are the CR-82 crate requirements for strong and dangerous breeds.

Such crates have to be made from solid metal or reinforced wood, not plastic. They have to have a reinforced door.

It is always important to check with your airline for their specific requirements. If you have a high quality IATA compliant crate like Safe Crate you can be sure that it more than meets all possible requirements, including the extra CR82 additions.



According to IATA the following breeds require a CR82 crate:

- Bull Terrier
- Anatolian Shepherd
- Dogo Argentino
- Rottweiler
- Staffordshire Bull Terrier
- American Bully
- American Pit Bull Terrier
- Fila Brasileiro
- American Staffordshire Terrier
- Bull Mastiff
- Perro de Presa Canario
- Caucasian Mastiff
- Cane Corso
- Japanese Mastiff



If you are unsure about any aspect of crating your dog, your trainer will be able to assist you further.

Or contact us at [DogCrateWorld.ca](https://DogCrateWorld.ca) we're happy to help you with any questions you have.



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