

Kennel Training

1. Say "Kennel up!" in a happy voice. Toss food to the back of the crate. Keep the door open. Repeat.
2. Once you think your dog knows the cue, say "Kennel up!" and make the gesture like you're throwing food into the kennel.
3. Wait.
4. Once your dog goes into the kennel, click and drop food into the back of the crate, from the above. Continue to leave the door open.
5. Repeat steps 1-5 for a few sessions, continuing to leave the door open.
6. Next, while the dog is eating the food in the back of the crate, shut the door. When he turns around and sees the door shut, click, praise, and drop more food. Open the door.
7. Take a step back with the crate door shut. Your dog should watch you step back. Click,praise,treat. Always drop the food at the back of the crate.
8. Repeat and gradually add in extra steps backward.
9. ALWAYS open the door before your dog gets upset. If you make a mistake and push your dog too far, he will whine, paw at the door, bark, etc. Immediately go back to the crate, quietly praise him for being quiet, and let him out.
10. The most important part of crate training is to gradually allow the dog to understand it's fun and relaxing to be in his kennel. If you push too fast, your pup will rebel and fuss. That's exactly what you're trying to avoid.
11. If you have a really tasty treat such as a stuffed Kong, or bully stick, you can cue the dog to go in the kennel, shut the door, and let him chew on his item. However, stay close, so that you can quietly praise your pup for staying occupied. Once he's done, let him out before he fusses.
12. Build on these steps a little at a time until you can leave him in longer and longer.
13. Have fun!