



Jasper County Animal Rescue League and Humane Society
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Crate Training (Using Classical Conditioning)

This method will help you train your dog to stay in a crate, and also to stop whining or barking, while the dog is crated. It might feel as though you are reinforcing a problem behavior, but that's not really the case.

You'll need plenty of wonderful treats (like pieces of chicken or beef).

- Put your dog in the crate and sit right next to it.
- Every 30 seconds or so, whether or not the dog is whining, crying, or barking, drop a piece of food into the crate. After a few minutes of this (or less), the dog will stop whining and begin to look expectantly for the upcoming treat.
- Keep feeding treats, but now lengthen the time between feedings - to one minute, then two minutes. After about five minutes, stop giving him the treats and let him out of his crate.
- The next session should be later that same day. Move from 30-second intervals to 60-second intervals quickly, and then up to two or three minutes.
- Get up and move around, but keep returning to the crate at regular intervals and give him a treat.
- Next session, begin by giving him the treat upon entering the crate, and one every five minutes or so. Lengthen the time he's in the crate and the time the treats come. The treats always cease abruptly when the dog comes out.

Chances are, by this time, your dog will be crate trained!