



Crate Training Guide

Helping Your Puppy Love Their Den

Why Crate Train?

A crate provides your puppy with a safe, comfortable den of their own. When done correctly, crate training helps with housebreaking, prevents destructive behavior, provides a safe travel method, and gives your puppy a quiet retreat when they need rest. Most Australian Labradoodles take to crate training quickly!

Choosing the Right Crate

We recommend a 36" metal crate with a divider. This allows you to adjust the space as your puppy grows.

Size Category	Adult Weight	Crate Size
Miniature	15–25 lbs	30" or 36" with divider
Medium	25–45 lbs	36" crate
Standard	45–65 lbs	42" crate

■ **Tip:** *The crate should be large enough for your puppy to stand, turn around, and lie down comfortably — but not so large they can use one end as a bathroom.*

Week-by-Week Training Schedule

Week 1: Introduction

- Place the crate in a common area where the family spends time
- Leave the door open and place treats and a soft blanket inside
- Let puppy explore at their own pace — never force them in
- Feed meals near the crate, gradually moving the bowl inside
- Praise and reward any voluntary entry into the crate

Week 2: Short Sessions

- Begin closing the door for 5–10 minutes while you're nearby
- Give a special treat or chew toy only available in the crate
- Stay calm when letting puppy out — no excited greetings
- Gradually increase closed-door time to 15–30 minutes
- Practice leaving the room briefly while puppy is crated

Weeks 3–4: Building Duration

- Increase crate time to 1–2 hours during the day
- Begin overnight crating (expect some whining initially)
- Take puppy out immediately after opening the crate
- Maintain a consistent schedule: crate time, potty, play, repeat
- Never use the crate as punishment

Month 2+: Establishing Routine

- Puppy should be comfortable for 3–4 hours during the day
- Continue using crate for overnight sleeping
- Leave a worn t-shirt in crate for comfort (your scent)
- Maintain positive associations with treats and praise
- Gradually your dog will choose the crate on their own for naps!

■ **Tip:** *If your puppy whines, wait for a brief pause in the whining before letting them out. This teaches them that quiet behavior earns freedom.*

Maximum Crate Time by Age

Puppy Age	Max Crate Time	Notes
8–10 weeks	30–60 minutes	Very short sessions, frequent potty breaks
11–14 weeks	1–3 hours	Building tolerance gradually
15–16 weeks	3–4 hours	Can usually hold bladder longer
17+ weeks	4–5 hours	Should not exceed 5–6 hours during day
Adult (1+ year)	6–8 hours	With adequate exercise before/after