

Puppy Crate Training Schedule

A crate works when it feels like a calm den, never a punishment. **Go at your puppy's pace, keep crate stretches short, and plan potty breaks around age.** The hour guides below are maximums, not targets.

FILLABLE PDF – TYPE ON A COMPUTER OR TABLET, OR PRINT AND FILL IT IN BY HAND.

PUPPY'S NAME

AGE (WEEKS)

START DATE

LONGEST GAP BETWEEN POTTY BREAKS (MAXIMUM)

AGE	VCA: 1 HOUR PER MONTH	AKC: MONTHS + 1
2 months	About 2 hours, even overnight	About 3 hours
3 months	About 3 hours	About 4 hours
4 months	About 4 hours	About 5 hours
5 months	About 5 hours	About 6 hours

Two respected rules of thumb; the stricter one is safer while you learn your puppy's signals. Under 6 months, crate time should be no more than 3–4 hours at a stretch (Humane World for Animals).

THE INTRO, STEP BY STEP

- 1 Door open, treats inside.** Let your puppy wander in and out freely.
- 2 Meals in the crate,** the bowl moving to the back once your puppy goes in easily.
- 3 Close the door during meals,** then build to about 10 minutes after eating.
- 4 Whining to get out?** You went a bit fast: shorten the time next session.
- 5 Build to 30 quiet minutes** with you mostly out of sight before nights or short absences.
- 6 Nights:** crate in or near your bedroom, a last potty trip before bed, night trips calm and brief.

TAKE YOUR PUPPY OUT

- ☐ On waking in the morning
- ☐ After every nap
- ☐ 5–30 minutes after meals
- ☐ After a big drink
- ☐ After play and excitement
- ☐ Right before bed

DAILY CRATE & POTTY LOG

TIME	IN / OUT	PEE / POOP	ACCIDENT?	NOTES

Never use the crate as punishment or punish accidents. Call your vet if your puppy drools, cries constantly, tries to escape or can't settle, or if house training stalls (a urinary infection can be the cause). A crate is not a fix for separation anxiety.

THE FULL VERSION: PUPPY CRATE TRAINING PLAN & LOG • ON ETSY: [NEWDOGCO.ETSY.COM](https://www.etsy.com/shop/newdogco)

Sources: VCA Animal Hospitals (potty training; puppy crate training; crate training overview); American Kennel Club (puppy potty-training timeline); Humane World for Animals (crate training 101). Most puppies accept the crate within 1–2 months (VCA).