

**A dog does not need a crate! The only reason why you could use a crate is to transport your dog.**

**Dogs do not live in dens like foxes or badgers. When we look at how dogs live amongst each other, we can see that they need space to move around. Dogs need to stay in balance to live a healthy life. Using a crate disturbs that balance, resulting in possible behavioural problems.**

## Hygiene

Dogs are very clean animals. They keep their living environment as clean as possible. But, for the dogs that live in a house with people that is not as easy. They always depend on whether the owner has the time to let them out. Dogs that live with people are the only animals on earth that cannot go when they have to go! This means that a dog has to learn it is depending on us to let them out, which is very difficult for little puppies. When they have to go, they have to go now! A dog in a crate is doing everything to keep its bed clean. But when it has to pee and cannot get out it gets very stressed and will not be able to sleep.

## Temperature

For a dog it is not as easy as for us humans to keep the correct body temperature. They need their environment to cool down or to warm up. When a dog is getting to hot, it can cool itself down by panting. But only when the environment is cool enough. When a dog is getting to cold, it can warm itself up by moving around and shivering or finding a warmer environment to be in. If these things are not possible it will cause a lot of stress and eventually a dog can go into shock or hypothermia.



## Space

To sleep well a dog also needs to be able to lie flat out to get in REM sleep (dreaming). During dreaming he has a “safe” experience of potential outcomes that prepares the brain for future possibilities. This is not possible in a small crate.

## Safety

Although a crate is often used for safety, it is not to keep the dog safe. A crate is used most of the times to keep the environment safe from the dog. Dogs don't feel more safe in a crate, it's quite the opposite, they feel frustrated, even claustrophobic. A crate can increase the dogs fear in a situation, because he has no choice of leaving. There is also a chance of physical injuries because of lack of free movements.



## Social

Being alone is very unnatural for dogs, if they had the choice they would never be alone! Dogs are very social animals and need to have company. It is not possible to take your dog with you all the time, so it is important to teach your dog that being alone for some time is ok. As long as the dog is not ok with it, it should not be left alone. Find a dog sitter or take your dog to someone who can take care of him when you are not at home.

## Sleep

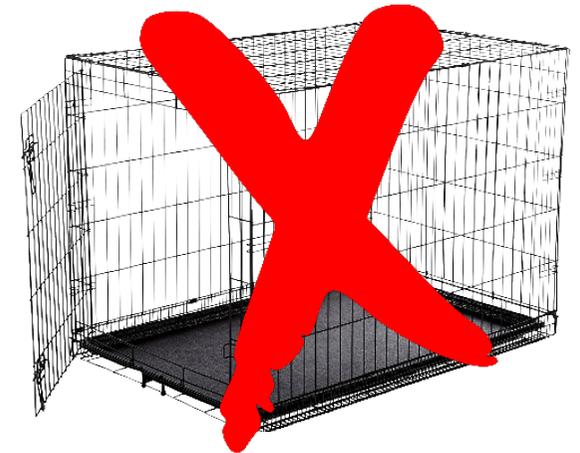
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Dogs sleep polyphasic. They sleep a little while, get up and walk around, look for food or drink something, play a little and look for another place to go back to sleep. It is the only way for a dog to sleep well! This is impossible when a dog is locked up in a crate.



*A crate is often bought together with the new puppy because it was told to be safer, and the puppy would be house clean much faster. But that's not true. A crate can cause a lot of problems. It should only be used to transport animals in, there is no other good reason to use one.*

# Why NOT



# To use a crate for your dog



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