

## WHAT WAS IT LIKE IN THE PAST?

Remember when you were young: most probably your friends had a dog and so did your parents and grandparents. Were they house trained and well behaved? It is most likely the answer is "YES".

So let me ask you a question: Were those dogs in crates? I bet the answer is "NO" !.



## NOWADAYS, THERE IS A NEW TREND IN DOG TRAINING: « THE CRATE » -IS IT THE RIGHT SOLUTION?

Some people say that dogs consider the crate as their home, that they love it and feel secure in it.

It is easy to convince dog owners that crates are a good solution for solving their dog's behavioral issues (such as house training puppies, destructive behaviors even throughout dog's adulthood).

The real question you need to ask yourself is whether the crate is beneficial for the physical and mental health of your dog? Or it is just a way to make your life easier?

Why should you subject your dog, that you love so much, to this practice if there are more humane and positive ways to train your dog? At the end of the day, do you really want the best for you dog?

Do you want your dog to participate fully in your everyday life and be part of the family?

If you keep him in a crate, it is unlikely that it will happen.

Are you willing to open your mind and try to understand the impact that crates can really have on your best friend's life?



For more information about crates:

Read the article « The Crate debate » by Roz Pooley, dog trainer and behaviour counsellor and the owner of The Mutty Professor in Bristol. United Kingdom (August 18, 2015)  
On [www.pdte.eu](http://www.pdte.eu)

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## DOG CRATES

# LIFE BEHIND BARS





## WHAT IS A DOG CRATE?

It is a cage used to transport a dog safely.

It is very important to choose the right cage to fit the dog's size.

Ideally, the transport cage must be large enough for the dog to be able to lie down (on the flank), turn around and remain standing if he wishes to. It must be airy, comfortable (with a cushion) and safe (without edges or salient items that could injure the animal). Opening and closing the crate should be easy, it should be made of a sturdy material and easy to wash.

If the dog is to travel over long distances, it is recommended to use a crate model which will make it possible to provide him with water and food.



## THE CONSEQUENCES OF EXCESSIVE USE OF DOG CRATES

- Crates stop dogs from satisfying some of their most basic needs, such as the freedom to walk, the possibility to relieve themselves, and the ability to stretch and relax. A crated dog will not be able to interact with his environment and will not learn how to behave around humans.



- A dog in a crate will not be able to interact with his owners and with other pets living in the home. As a result, he will not be properly socialized whether it be with humans or other dogs.

- A crated dog will feel totally isolated from his family, and this will increase anxiety and behavioral problems.



- The dog's stress level will increase when he feels that he is locked up and cannot escape

- After being locked up several hours in the crate, some dogs become overexcited when their owners come home. Over time, the mere opening of the crate door can make the dog hysterical.



- Long-term confinement is detrimental to the welfare of the dog, both psychologically and physically : It can develop many problems such as aggression, hyperactivity, separation anxiety, fearfulness, depression, eating disorders and obsessive licking. Urinary infections are also common due to the fact that the dog has to hold its bladder for long periods of time.
- The muscles of any animal will become tense and sore if they are left in a single position near all day long. This discomfort is extremely unhealthy to the dog as it would be to any animal. In most cases, dogs will get muscular problems such as atrophy and deformations because they can not move enough. Dogs who have been in crates, most of the time for years, are actually almost crippled and some have problems walking.



## STUDY : CRATING DOGS

IS A COMMON PRACTICE AND IT CAN CAUSE MENTAL ILLNESS.

The study was conducted by researchers from the University of Edinburgh and the Institute anthropozoology at the University of Bristol (UK). It involved 30 German Shepherds males, all very social and trained as police dogs. None of the dogs were on medication.

**93% of police dogs staying in kennels had stereotyped behaviors (constant pacing back and forth, spinning, bouncing off the walls), which is a clear sign of mental illness.**

So just imagine the impact on a dog, locked up all day, in a small crate with no stimulation throughout the whole day (unlike the police dogs).