**Crate Training**

Even though you may not plan on using a kennel in the future it is a good idea to teach your puppy how to be confined in case you will require one in the future. Or you may getting this because your dog is fearful of the crate.

* The kennel needs to be a safe place. Always keep the kennel in an area that you spend a lot of time in. Always leave the door open so your dog can go in and out as it pleases.
* If you just brought home a puppy, we recommend setting your kennel up in your bedroom to start.
* Never use the kennel as a punishment.
* You can put your dog’s meals in the kennel. If at first your dog won’t go in, you can start at the front of the door. Eventually I would like the meal to be all the way towards the back. DO NOT shut the door. We are not trying to trick them.
* Whenever your dog goes in the kennel they should be rewarded with a treat but never rewarded for coming out.
* You can also have your dog go into the kennel and as soon as your dog is in the kennel, click and reward your dog by tossing a treat outside the kennel. This way if your dog wants to keep receiving the rewards, he has to go back into the kennel.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hn9qCm09f9I&t=19s>

* When you are letting you dog out of the kennel, do NOT reward him. This means no playing, treats or petting until after he has gone outside. This way he thinks he’s being rewarded for going outside, not for coming out of the kennel. We want your dog to learn that everything good happens when you go in the kennel, thus there is no reason to get anxious about getting out.
* If your dog is pooping and peeing in the kennel, look to see if your dog has too much room in the kennel to have a separate potty spot. This could also mean that he can’t hold it as long as you are asking him to or he may even have some anxiety. Video recording will provide you with lots of answers!
* If you have a puppy, put your puppy in the kennel when they are getting sleepy. Keep in mind that puppies require lots of sleep, so you should have lots of opportunities to practice.

This handout is provided by Nicole from the MN Valley Pet Hospital