



Teach them your world is safe so that they can go places with you.

cheerfuldogs chronicles

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Issue 9

Living With Dogs: Why Create A Cozy Den For Your Dog?

Getting your dog used to a crate or kennel is great for you and your dog for a variety of reasons:

- It reduces chaos when family and friends visit
- It makes travelling in a car safer and easier
- It gives you management options when children are running around
- It helps you separate dogs in multi-dog homes
- It provides a safe and secure place for your dog when you're not at home



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Did You Know: The origin of this doggie phrase?

Man's best friend. There are few certainties in language history, but it's thought that this phrase originated in the Court of Appeals in Missouri, U.S. in 1870. A neighbour had (possibly accidentally) shot Mr. Burden's dog. His lawyer made a long and emotional plea for damages that became known in the press as the "man's best friend" argument.

cont.

.... Why Create A Cozy Den For Your Dog?

Dogs are den animals and given the right introduction, a crate can become your dog's most beloved comfy spot. For example:

- It's a safe and predictable place to chill out during hectic family times.
- It can be especially comfortable during storms. Placing a blanket over the top can add to that feeling of comfort.
- It's a great place to take really yummy treats to enjoy privately.
- Being familiar with the crate can help your dog adjust more easily if she is ever kenneled or stays over at the vet.

But crating is not a "one-size-fits-all" solution, and owners must be willing to consider what's best for each individual dog and her needs. Crating is not suitable if a dog is uncomfortable, or panics, when confined, as this could cause even greater destruction and self-injury. A crate should also not be used for punishment/time-out, toilet, or long-term confinement at home (more than 2-4 h for puppies, or 6-8 h for adults).

Your dog can love her crate rather than avoid or fear it if she is introduced to it properly using positive training methods. A qualified trainer can perform a safe assessment to determine if your dog is comfortable in a crate, and guide you and your dog in the process. For more information, read our article in the SPCA Bulletin at <https://cheerfuldogs.com/Documents/CheerfuldogsOct-Dec2013SPCABulletin.pdf>.



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Healthy Dog: Skin problems

Canine skin health is important for a number of reasons. Skin insulates, regulates temperature, and protects against water loss and pathogens. What's more, skin serves as a barometer of many internal conditions, so keeping a close eye on your dog's skin condition is a must.

Things you should look out for include scabs, rashes, redness, swelling, dry or bald patches, sores, and hair loss. Also be aware of behaviours that could betray skin problems, such as scratching, licking, or chewing. Aside from the obvious—fleas and ticks—the big culprit is allergy: Seasonal allergies to pollen, weeds, mould, etc., and food allergies, often to ingredients like wheat, corn, beef, chicken, or soy.

If you spot a skin problem, it's important not to self-diagnose. Even chronic problems like allergies need to be checked by a veterinarian to exclude more serious health issues. For good skin health, use natural soaps and shampoos, feed your dog a healthy diet free of additives, and brush her coat often.

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