

# Step-by-Step Puppy Crate Training Schedule (Daily Routine)

A structured daily routine is crucial for successful puppy crate training. By establishing consistency, you help your puppy learn what to expect throughout the day, making the process smoother and less stressful for both of you. This step-by-step guide will break down a daily schedule for crate training, ensuring your puppy gets the right balance of potty breaks, playtime, rest, and crate time.

## 1. Morning Routine: Start the Day Right

- **6:00 AM - Wake Up & Potty Break**: Puppies have small bladders and need to relieve themselves first thing in the morning. Take them outside immediately to avoid accidents inside the crate. A quick walk or potty break is essential to start the day.

- **6:30 AM - Breakfast & Water**: After the potty break, it is time for breakfast. Offer a healthy meal and water. Keep feeding times consistent to help establish a routine.

- **7:00 AM - Playtime**: Puppies are full of energy in the morning. Spend 15-20 minutes engaging in interactive play with toys. This allows them to burn off some energy before returning to their crate.

- **7:30 AM - Crate Time (30-45 minutes)**: After playtime, guide your puppy back to the crate. At this age (8-10 weeks), limit crate time to 30-45 minutes. The crate should be a safe, quiet space where they can rest. Ensure it is cozy with a soft bed and a chew toy to keep them entertained.

## 2. Midday Routine: Keep the Flow Going

- **10:00 AM - Potty Break & Play**: Take your puppy outside for another potty break. Puppies this

young need frequent bathroom breaks. Afterward, engage them in short play or training sessions to keep them stimulated.

- **10:30 AM - Crate Time (1 hour max)**: After the break, it is time for another short crate session. Puppies at this stage can stay in the crate for up to 1 hour. You might need to go back to work or run errands, so crate time is ideal for a brief rest period.

- **12:00 PM - Lunch & Potty Break**: Time for lunch and a potty break again. Keep meals regular, so your puppy knows when to expect food. After feeding, take them outside for another bathroom break.

- **12:30 PM - Nap in Crate (1 hour)**: After lunch, put your puppy back in the crate for a relaxed nap. Puppies need plenty of sleep to grow and stay healthy. A nap at this time ensures they are well-rested for the rest of the afternoon.

### 3. **Evening Routine: Wind Down**

- **5:00 PM - Dinner & Potty Break**: Puppies typically need to eat 2-3 times a day. After dinner, take them out for their final potty break of the evening. Keeping this routine consistent helps reduce accidents at night.

- **6:00 PM - Walk & Play**: After dinner, go for a short walk or engage in interactive play. This provides both physical and mental stimulation. It also gives your puppy a chance to expend any remaining energy before crate time.

- **7:00 PM - Short Crate Session (Relaxing Time)**: Place your puppy back in the crate for a short crate time. At this point in the evening, the goal is to wind down. Allow them to rest, settle down, and

relax with a chew toy or a comfy bed.

#### 4. **Bedtime Routine: End the Day Calmly**

- **9:30 PM - Last Potty Break**: Before bed, take your puppy outside for a final potty break. This reduces the chances of accidents during the night and sets a good pattern for long-term potty training.

- **10:00 PM - Into the Crate for Bedtime**: Place your puppy in the crate for the night. Puppies this young may need to wake up once during the night to go potty, so be prepared for occasional midnight bathroom breaks. Ensure the crate is in a quiet, comfortable area away from distractions.

#### Important Tips to Follow:

- **Consistency Is Key**: Stick to the same routine every day. Puppies thrive on routine and consistency, so establish a predictable schedule to help them feel secure.

- **Monitor Crate Time**: Do not over-crate your puppy. They need frequent breaks for potty, play, and socializing. Use the crate for rest and calm time, not as a long-term confinement.

- **Crate Training Should Be Positive**: The crate should never be used as punishment. Always associate the crate with positive experiences like treats, toys, and quiet time. This ensures that your puppy enjoys their crate.

- **Gradually Increase Crate Time**: As your puppy gets older and learns to hold their bladder longer, you can gradually increase their crate time. For puppies over 3 months, aim for 1-2 hours in the crate, with breaks in between.

This step-by-step daily routine creates a balanced structure for your puppy, helping them feel secure, rested, and well-trained. By following a consistent crate schedule, your puppy will learn to

love their crate and adapt quickly to their new home.