

## WHAT DOGS LIKE PRINTABLE RESOURCE

# Dog Crate Setup Checklist

Use this checklist before buying or setting up a dog crate at home. Measure first, compare internal dimensions, plan the room location, then inspect fit after the crate is assembled.

Dog name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Measured length: \_\_\_\_\_ Standing height: \_\_\_\_\_

## 1. Measure before shopping

- Measure body length from nose to tail base.
- Measure standing height to head or ears, whichever is taller.
- Write down the recommended starting range from the crate size calculator.
- Compare against internal dimensions, not only exterior dimensions.

## 2. Check the room location

- Choose a calm area near normal household life.
- Avoid direct sun, cold drafts, heat vents, and noisy traffic paths.
- Confirm the door can open fully without blocking walkways.
- Plan floor protection and cleaning access before assembly.

## 3. Review crate details

- Check latch design, smooth edges, tray fit, and door direction.
- For puppies, confirm the divider is secure and easy to move.
- Check ventilation and visibility for the crate style.
- Read recent owner feedback for rattling, tray, and latch issues.

## 4. Choose bedding carefully

- Use bedding that fits without blocking doors.
- Account for bedding thickness reducing usable standing height.
- Avoid loose or thick fabric for dogs that chew bedding.
- Prefer washable mats when accidents, mud, or shedding are likely.

## 5. Final setup inspection

- Dog can stand in a normal posture without crouching.
- Dog can turn around without twisting into the crate walls.
- Dog can lie down comfortably with bedding in place.
- Door, latch, tray, divider, and mat stay stable during normal use.

**[ ]** Setup is revisited if the dog panics, escapes, chews, or appears uncomfortable.

This checklist supports buying and setup decisions. It is not veterinary advice, a professional training plan, or a substitute for behavior support when a dog panics, escapes, or injures themselves in a crate.

More guidance: [whatdogslike.com/resource-library/dog-crate-setup-checklist/](https://whatdogslike.com/resource-library/dog-crate-setup-checklist/) and [whatdogslike.com/tools/dog-crate-size-calculator/](https://whatdogslike.com/tools/dog-crate-size-calculator/)