

# **crate training games susan garrett**

Crate training games Susan Garrett are an innovative approach to making the process of crate training more enjoyable and effective for both dogs and their owners. Susan Garrett, a renowned dog trainer and behaviorist, has developed a series of engaging games that not only help dogs become comfortable with their crates but also foster a positive relationship between the pet and its owner. This article delves into the principles behind crate training, the games created by Susan Garrett, and how to implement them in your training routine.

## **Understanding Crate Training**

Crate training is a common method used by dog owners to create a safe, secure space for their pets. It can be beneficial for various reasons, including:

1. House Training: Dogs instinctively avoid soiling their sleeping area, making crates effective for house training.
2. Safety: A crate can protect your dog from harm when you are not able to supervise them.
3. Travel: Crate training prepares dogs for travel, as many pet-friendly accommodations require pets to be crated.
4. Separation Anxiety: Gradual crate training can help dogs feel more secure when left alone.

## **Principles of Effective Crate Training**

To ensure successful crate training, it is essential to adhere to some key principles:

- Positive Reinforcement: Always reward your dog for entering the crate voluntarily. Use treats, praise, or toys.
- Comfort: Make the crate a cozy and inviting space. Include soft bedding and some favorite toys.
- Gradual Introduction: Start by allowing your dog to explore the crate with the door open, and gradually increase the time they spend inside.
- Avoid Punishment: Never use the crate as a form of punishment, as this can create negative associations.

## **Susan Garrett's Approach to Crate Training Games**

Susan Garrett's crate training games are designed to make the process enjoyable while ensuring that dogs learn to love their crates. Her philosophy revolves around positive reinforcement, engagement, and using play to strengthen the bond between dog and owner.

# Key Components of Garrett's Training Games

1. Engagement: Games are structured to keep dogs engaged and excited about their crates.
2. Variety: Multiple games are introduced, so dogs don't get bored and remain motivated.
3. Skill Development: Each game is designed to build specific skills that contribute to overall obedience and confidence.

## Popular Crate Training Games by Susan Garrett

Susan Garrett has developed several games that can be easily incorporated into your crate training routine. Below are some of the most effective ones:

### 1. The Crate Game

This is a foundational game that introduces your dog to the crate in a fun way.

- How to Play:
  - Place the crate in a quiet area.
  - Toss treats into the crate while encouraging your dog to go inside.
  - Use a command such as "crate" or "place" when they enter.
  - Gradually increase the duration your dog stays in the crate before rewarding them.
- Benefits:
  - Helps dogs associate the crate with positive experiences.
  - Teaches them to enter the crate calmly.

### 2. The Crate Challenge

This game builds on the skills learned in The Crate Game by adding an element of challenge.

- How to Play:
  - Set up a series of obstacles leading to the crate.
  - Use treats to guide your dog through the obstacles while encouraging them to reach the crate.
  - Once they reach the crate, reward them generously.
- Benefits:
  - Reinforces the crate as a destination worth reaching.
  - Enhances problem-solving skills and builds confidence.

### 3. Crate Retreat

This game focuses on making the crate a desirable place for relaxation.

- How to Play:
  - Start by feeding your dog their meals in the crate.
  - Gradually increase the time they spend inside during mealtime.
  - After they finish eating, leave them in the crate for a few minutes to relax before letting them out.
- Benefits:
  - Establishes the crate as a safe space for downtime.
  - Reduces anxiety associated with being crated.

### 4. Crate Hide and Seek

This fun game combines mental stimulation with crate training.

- How to Play:
  - Have someone hold your dog while you hide treats or toys inside the crate.
  - Release your dog and encourage them to find the hidden items.
  - Use commands to direct them, rewarding them when they successfully find the treats.
- Benefits:
  - Stimulates your dog mentally and physically.
  - Reinforces the crate as a place of discovery and fun.

## Tips for Successful Implementation

To maximize the effectiveness of Susan Garrett's crate training games, consider the following tips:

- Consistency is Key: Use the same commands and routines to build familiarity.
- Short Sessions: Keep training sessions brief and enjoyable to prevent your dog from becoming overwhelmed or bored.
- Observe Your Dog: Pay attention to your dog's body language. If they seem stressed or reluctant, take a step back and make the crate more inviting.
- Progress at Your Own Pace: Every dog learns differently. Be patient and adjust the pace of training according to your dog's comfort level.

## Conclusion

Crate training games Susan Garrett provides a fresh and engaging approach to a common pet training method. By integrating play into the crate training process, these games

promote positive associations with the crate and help develop a trusting relationship between the dog and owner. With dedication, consistency, and a focus on positive reinforcement, you can turn crate training into an enjoyable experience for both you and your furry friend. As you implement these games, remember that the goal is not just to train your dog to accept the crate, but to create a space where they feel safe, secure, and happy.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is crate training and why is it important in dog training?**

Crate training is a method of teaching a dog to see its crate as a safe and comfortable space. It's important because it helps with house training, prevents destructive behavior, and provides a safe space for the dog when unsupervised.

### **Who is Susan Garrett and what is her approach to crate training?**

Susan Garrett is a renowned dog trainer known for her positive reinforcement techniques. Her approach to crate training emphasizes making the crate a rewarding place for the dog through games and positive experiences.

### **What are some crate training games suggested by Susan Garrett?**

Some crate training games suggested by Susan Garrett include 'Crate Games,' which involve teaching the dog to willingly enter the crate, stay inside, and enjoy being there through fun and rewarding methods.

### **How can crate training games improve a dog's comfort with being crated?**

Crate training games can improve a dog's comfort with being crated by associating the crate with positive experiences, such as playtime and treats, making the dog more likely to see it as a safe and enjoyable environment.

### **What is the recommended age to start crate training games with a puppy?**

It is recommended to start crate training games with a puppy as early as 8 weeks old, as this helps establish good habits and makes the process easier as they grow.

# Can crate training games help with separation anxiety in dogs?

Yes, crate training games can help alleviate separation anxiety by teaching the dog to enjoy being alone in their crate, thus reducing stress when left alone and creating a positive association with being crated.

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