

What is the maximum hours in...

What is the maximum hours in a day that a dog can be crated?



I have a family member who keeps her dogs crated during the day when she's at work and during the night while sleeping. When she goes on vacation, she has a sitter come in and let the dogs out in the morning for a bit. Then they are re-crated - in normal sized crates that allow for a stand up and turn around, but that's it. And then the sitter comes back in the evening and lets them out to relieve themselves and eat dinner, then they're re-crated until morning. I figure these dogs are spending at least 22 hours a day in a crate during all her vacations and trips (she usually takes a 3 day weekend trip at least once a month). This seems like way too long to leave a dog in a crate. One of the dogs is a small dog, pretty old, and usually will mess in her crate during these events. The other dog is a large dog, over 8, but suffers from arthritis.

Am I just being paranoid and judgmental, or do you think this is too long for dogs to be in a crate? What would you say is the max total hours a day a dog can be crated without ill health / emotional / well - being effects?

5 Answers



For the day to day crating I'm willing to give her the benefit of the doubt. Some dogs can't be trusted with freedom while unsupervised, and the periods of crating are (as I understand it) broken up into reasonable chunks of time. Is it ideal? No, but dogs also sleep upwards of 16 hours per day, so if the dogs are getting the appropriate stimulation and exercise while not in the crate, I wouldn't be too concerned.

I'm less forgiving for the arrangements when she is out of town. Part of the cost of travel is the cost of providing adequate arrangements for your pets while you are away. I wouldn't consider two visits a day adequate care regardless of how the dogs were housed, because I don't personally feel it's fair to ask a dog (even in peak condition) to hold their bladder for 12 hours at a time. Putting the dog in the position of soiling themselves and sitter into the position of cleaning up messes because you aren't scheduling frequent enough visits isn't acceptable. Add to that the nearly 24 hours of kenneling and I don't think you're overreacting at all. Boarding or travel sitters (who stay with the dogs rather than just providing drop in visits) can be expensive, but that's not really an excuse when you're frequently traveling for pleasure. Just like you wouldn't fly to Hawaii if you couldn't afford the plane tickets, you don't leave your dogs if you can't afford dog care.



In general sounds like someone who likes the idea of having dogs but not the actual time you need to invest to give them the best quality of life. Some people think if you feed and house a dog its "enough". Personally I feel they should have either mental or physical stimulation. This leads to happier/ healthier dogs, and if you don't want them to be happy then what are you doing with them?

Adult dogs in theory can hold it 6-8 hours no problem. That being said older dogs, smaller dogs and puppies need more frequent breaks. An occasional accident is okay. However if dog messes its crate regularly something is wrong. In principle its like if an adult would poop in his bed. Sure he might be on some medicine or couldn't move fast enough, but a normal person would not willingly do that.

Its sad but alot of people do this style of treatment to their pets and see nothing wrong with it. It can be difficult to adjust their thinking.



If they are messing in their crate that's a sure sign that it is too long for the dog to stay in it.

I am home all day with my dog but he will indulge in a 3-5 hour nap in his crate even after sleeping around 15 hours in it at night. My dog has always loved his sleep.

When I was working full-time he would sleep around 10 hours and be crated for 10 hours only being out an hour in the morning and about 3 hours in the evening and he was fine then too. As he matured a little bit instead of crating him I put him in his playpen with some toys while I was at work. It really depends on the dog.



It depends on the age of the dog and it is not good to crate a dog for that long. I would say tops is 8-10 hours because it is way to long to be crated in an area and not be able to stretch.



Adult dogs can usually hold it for a good 8 hours.....I've even known them to hold it for 10 and even 12. That being said, my experience is that dogs tend to start losing their minds after being crated for more than 6 hours a day. They need social interaction and exercise, or they get really weird.