

## **Crate Training & Frozen Treats**

Congratulations on your new four-legged family member! Slobbery kisses, tail-wagging joy, and exciting new beginnings await you. Unfortunately, you can't spend every minute of the day with your new friend, so what do you do when you need to leave the house? You may have left home thinking it would be fine to leave Snoopy alone for a few hours—only to return to chewed-up baseboards, pee puddles, and what's left of a remote. When this happens, it's easy to feel frustrated, but there are ways to handle these challenges!

Crate training may seem cruel to some, but it actually protects your pet and prevents property damage. Start with small steps, like feeding your pup inside the crate, so they associate it with treats and meals rather than punishment. (Pro tip: never use the crate for punishment—it has the opposite effect.) Keep the crate door open so your dog can explore it at their own pace. Begin by closing the door for only about half an hour while you're at home. Barking or crying is normal at first, but with patience, most dogs adjust to the routine within a few weeks.

Kong makes excellent rubber toys that can be filled with xylitol-free peanut butter, wet food, kibble, or even baby food—just make sure the ingredients are dog-safe. Freeze the Kong and give it to your dog when you leave; the frozen treat keeps them busy for a while and doubles as a chew toy afterward. This stimulates their mind, prevents boredom, and provides positive reinforcement, helping them see the crate as a cozy retreat. Proper crate training also makes housebreaking easier and helps your pup feel secure. Since dogs don't usually want to soil their sleeping area, the crate teaches bladder control, though it's important not to confine your dog for too long.

When you need to leave the house, you can relax knowing Snoopy is safe in his crate, happily enjoying his Kong—not chewing up your remote.