Crates, Pens & Safe Rooms: Creating Security

FOSTERS & ADOPTERS

GNR standard

When a foster dog is unattended, safe confinement is required; an appropriately sized crate, secure dog-proofed room, or properly constructed exercise pen may be used. Select the option suited to that dog's needs. Adoption agreements may specify individual requirements.

Crate training is encouraged, not forced

A crate can be a predictable retreat and help with transport, veterinary care, or recovery. Introduce gradually with voluntary exploration, treats, meals, and short positive sessions. Never use it for punishment.

Signs the setup is not working

Panic, frantic escape attempts, sustained distress vocalization, self-injury, or refusal to enter despite gradual conditioning. Stop and seek an individualized plan; confinement distress is not disobedience.

Make the space safe

Remove cords, cleaners, medications, trash, unsafe chewables, and entanglement hazards. Provide water, ventilation, comfortable temperature, and bedding if safe. Use appropriate potty and exercise breaks.

Special considerations

Dogs with injuries, post-surgical restrictions, incontinence, mobility challenges, or separation-related distress may need modified arrangements from the veterinarian or GNR.

Children and other pets

The safe space is not a play area. Children must not enter or disturb it. Keep other animals from crowding the entrance. Do not assume barriers prevent all contact unless securely designed.