STEP 1: TEACH YOUR PET TO GO INTO A CRATE AND REMAIN IN ONE CALMLY

You do not need to crate your pet all the time, just teach your pet to go into a crate so that if and when the time comes, your pet will willingly enter a crate without having to be pushed and forced into it.  If you have to push them into a crate during an emergency situation, it will just add to their stress.

A.  WHAT SIZE AND TYPE OF CRATE SHOULD I HAVE?

Your crate at home can be a metal crate, but a travel or transport crate should be standard hard plastic that is closed with venilation slats.  The transport crates will minimize stress from the environment and other animals.

The size should be just enough room for your pet to stand up and turn, but not enough room to walk around in it.  If the crate is too large they might be prone to have accidents in it.  Also, putting bedding in the bottom of the crate will encourage them not to have accidents.

B.  HOW TO TRAIN YOUR PET TO GO INTO A CRATE:

1.) Put a dog biscuit or treat into the back of the crate, but leave the crate door open.  Your

pet may not go into the crate initially, but eventually will discover it is safe to go inside the crate and eat the treat.  DO NOT close the door on the crate for the first week.  Leave the crate door open and just get them comfortable going in for a treat.

2) After about a week of getting your pet comfortable going into the crate, start putting the treat into the crate and when they go in, say "CRATE" and close the door behind them.

3) Leave them in for just long enough to eat the treat initially and stay close by the crate.  Let them out of the crate and say "Good Boy or Girl" or "Good \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (their name)".

4) Eventually, when they are in the crate, try to walk away and leave them for longer periods of time.  If they start to make noise, do NOT let them out of the crate.  Correct them and wait for them to stop (I say \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Name) "Cut" to have them stop.  Give them at least 5 more minutes of quiet and then let them out.

 5) Even if you do not crate them on a regular basis when you go out, you should crate them occasionally when you leave the house so they remain used to being in the crate.

6) The goal is that your pet is trained to go into the crate any time you say "CRATE" or if your pet is a cat, that at least they do not fight you going into the crate.