

STRONGHOLD GERMAN SHEPHERDS

THE IMPORTANCE OF CRATE USE

Breeder: Stronghold German Shepherds
Location: Wolcott, Vermont
Phone: 802.672.9934



Using a Crate is NOT a Punishment.

Using a crate is one of the strongest tools you'll ever use with a puppy

Most families think a crate is “just a place to sleep.” But in reality, a crate is one of the **most powerful training, safety, and emotional tools** you can give a growing German Shepherd.

Here's why.

1. A crate protects your puppy's body

Puppies are curious, impulsive, and fast — and they can injure themselves in seconds.

A crate prevents:

- *jumping off furniture*
- *slipping on floors*
- *eating harmful objects*
- *over-exercise*
- *rough play with older dogs*
- *stair injuries*
- *nighttime accidents*

A crate is **physical protection** during the most vulnerable months of growth.

2. A crate protects your puppy's mind

Puppies need:

- *structure*
- *boundaries*
- *predictable rest*
- *calmness*

A crate teaches:

- *self-soothing*
- *independence*
- *patience*
- *emotional regulation*

A calm puppy becomes a calm adult.

3. A crate prevents behavioral problems before they start

Crate-raised puppies are far less likely to develop:

- *separation anxiety*
- *destructive chewing*
- *resource guarding*
- *reactivity*
- *over-attachment*
- *frantic energy*

Why? Because the crate teaches **healthy boundaries** from the beginning.

4. A crate is the fastest path to potty training

Dogs naturally avoid soiling their sleeping space. A crate helps puppies learn:

- *bladder control*
- *routine*
- *predictability*

This is why Stronghold puppies potty train so quickly.

5. A crate keeps your home safe

A puppy can destroy a room in minutes — not out of “bad behavior,” but out of curiosity.

A crate protects:

- *furniture*
- *shoes*
- *walls*
- *electrical cords*
- *children’s toys*
- *your sanity*

It’s not punishment — it’s prevention.

6. A crate builds confidence

A confident dog is one who can:

- *rest alone*
- *settle without constant attention*
- *feel safe in their own space*

Crate-trained puppies grow into **emotionally stable adults**.

7. A crate prepares your dog for real-world situations

Crate comfort is essential for:

- *vet visits*
- *grooming*
- *travel*
- *emergencies*
- *boarding*
- *recovery from injury*

A dog who is calm in a crate is safer in every environment.

8. A crate prevents over-exercise

This is one of the most important reasons for German Shepherd puppies.

A crate forces:

- *rest*
- *joint protection*
- *controlled activity*
- *healthy growth*

Without crate time, puppies may damage their growth plates.

9. A crate gives YOU peace of mind

You can:

- *shower*
- *cook*
- *leave the room*
- *sleep*
- *run errands*

...knowing your puppy is safe, calm, and protected.

A STRONGHOLD REMINDER

A crate is not a cage. It is a **den**, a **safe place**, a **boundary**, and one of the most powerful tools for raising a sound, confident, well-balanced German Shepherd.

A crate gives your puppy:

- safety
- structure
- rest
- emotional stability
- protection during growth

A crate is love in the form of structure.