

# Dog Kennel Assembly Instructions



**GATOR  
KENNELS**



Manufacturer of Commercial Dog Kennels  
970-622-9885 | [www.gatorkennels.com](http://www.gatorkennels.com)

# These are the assembly instructions for Gator Kennels Commercial Dog Kennels.

**The basic steps are the same - regardless of the size/configuration.  
Be sure to refer to your quote and any accompanying pages for specific  
sizes and layouts!**

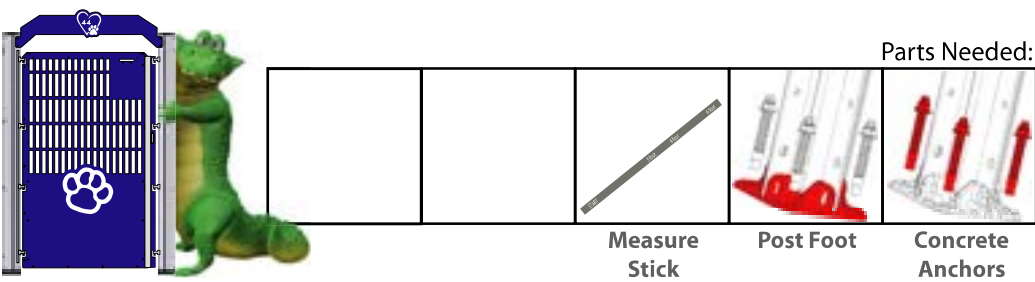
## **The tools you will need are:**

- Hammer-drill with 3/8 masonry bit.
- 1/2" wrench or Socket.
- 7/16" wrench or Socket.
- Phillips Screwdriver.
- \* If attaching to your existing wall, the appropriate wall-anchors to match your wall construction is needed.

## **Some useful items to have are:**

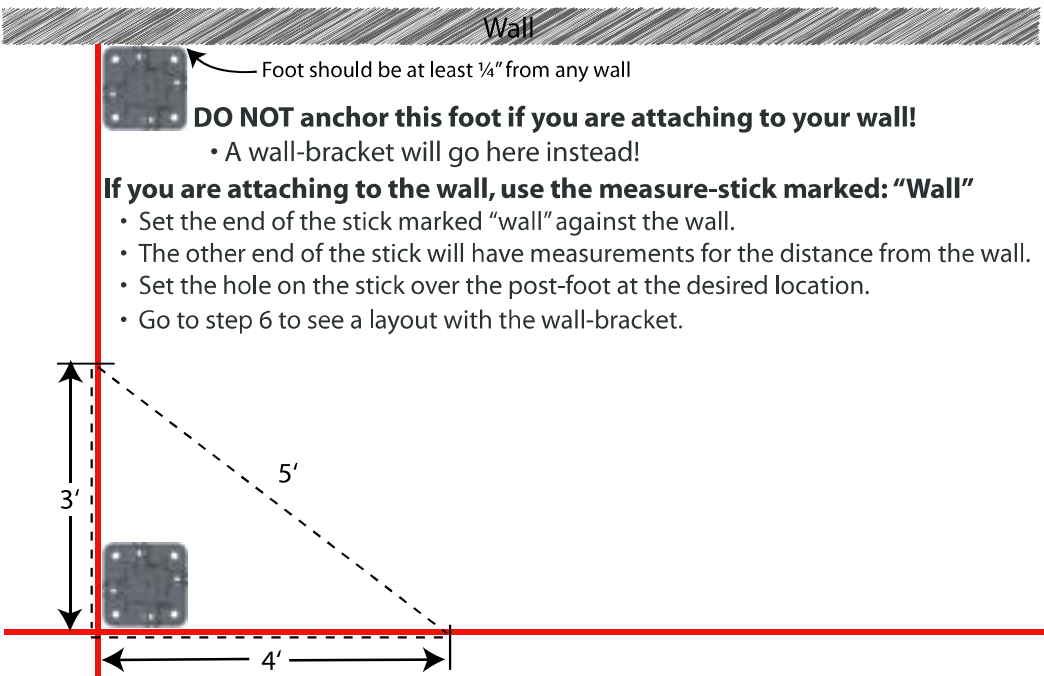
- Chalk-line or way to draw straight lines over long distances.
- Power-driver or cordless drill with socket-driver bit.





## 1. Mark the corner of the area you want the kennels to sit.

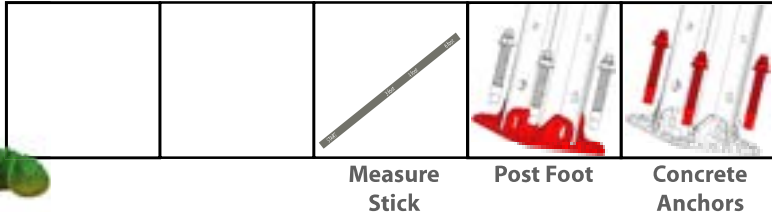
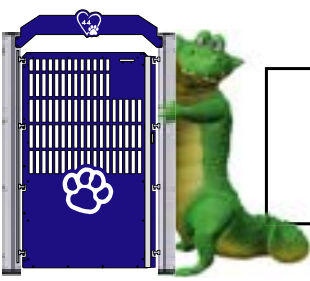
- A chalk-line works great for this!
- All posts right up next to a wall should be at least  $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the wall to allow space for assembly.



## 2. Check the corners for square.

**If you do not have a square - there is quick way to check for square by measuring!**

- Measure 3' along one line and make a mark.
- Measure 4' along the other line and make a mark.
- If your corners are square, the measurement between the marks should be 5'

Measure  
Stick

Post Foot

Concrete  
Anchors

### 3. Place one foot in the corner and anchor it to the ground using the 3/8" concrete anchors.

- Use a 3/8" masonry bit to drill into your concrete floor.
- We recommend drilling at least 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ " deep.



### 4. Place the provided measure-stick labeled: "Post" on the foot you just anchored.

- Place another foot at the correct mark on the stick. This will give you the exact distance needed between the posts.

Wall



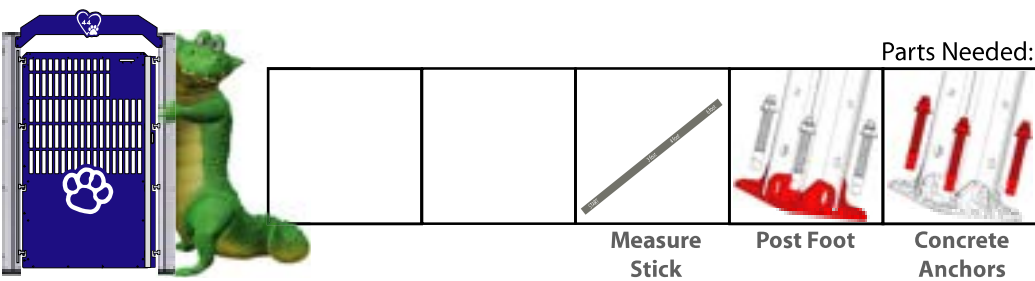
Set the stick on the hole that corresponds to the measurement for your project!



Be sure the new foot is matching your chalk-line to keep the kennel system square!

### Measure-stick in use





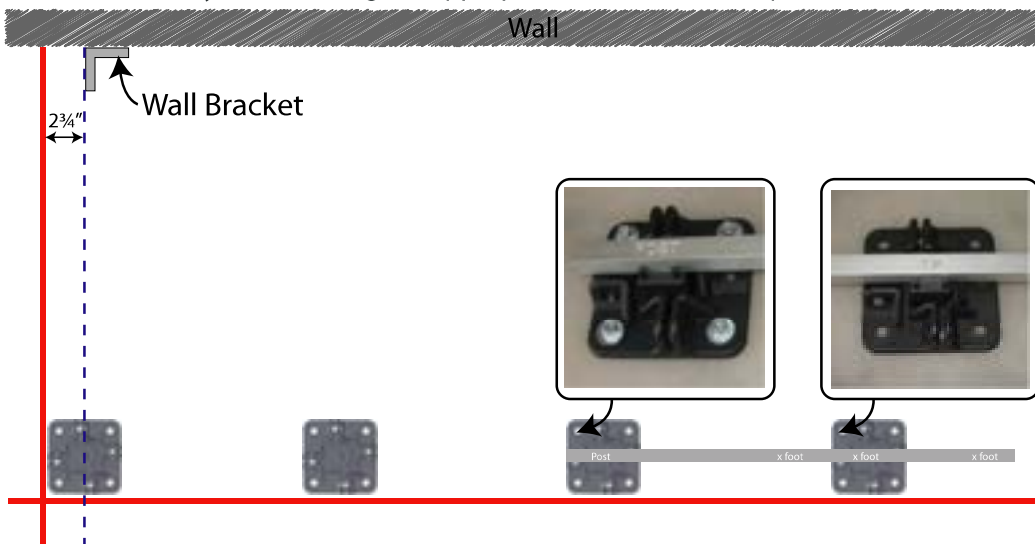
## 5. Anchor the new foot into place.



## 6. Continue using the measure-stick until all of the post-feet are in place.

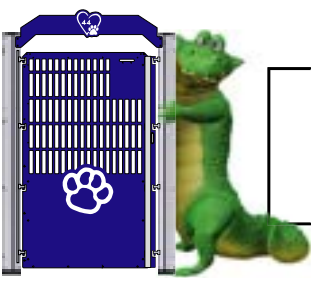
If you are attaching the kennels to your walls instead of a post:

- Use the 6ft tall wall bracket
- The notched end of the bracket goes UP
- Attach to your wall using the appropriate wall anchor (not provided).

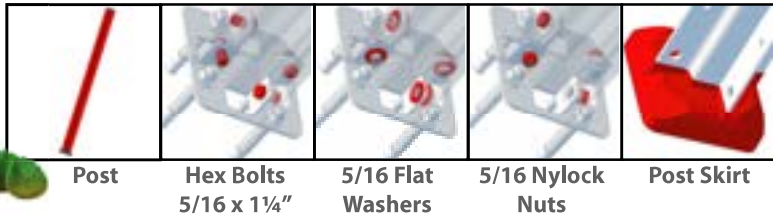


## Measure-stick in use





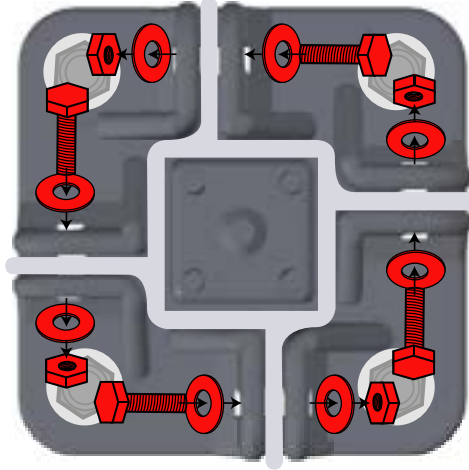
Parts Needed:



## 7. Set the posts on the feet and bolt them into place.

- Use the 5/16" x 1 1/4" Hex-bolt, Flat-washer, and nylock nut.
- Put a flat-washer on **BOTH** sides of the post for best results!

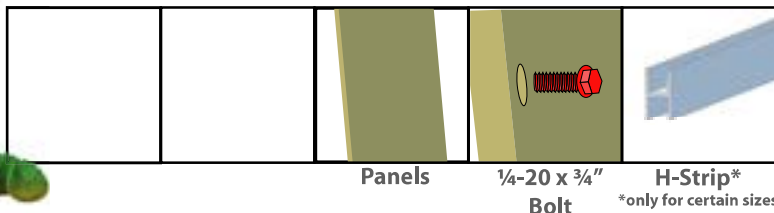
Top view of Post:



## 8. Slide the skirt down the post to cover the concrete anchors.



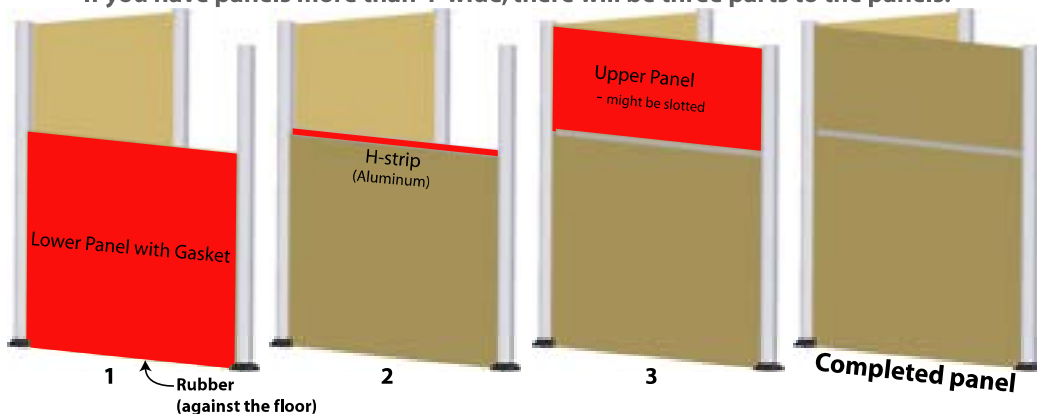
Parts Needed:



## 9. Place the panels next to the posts.

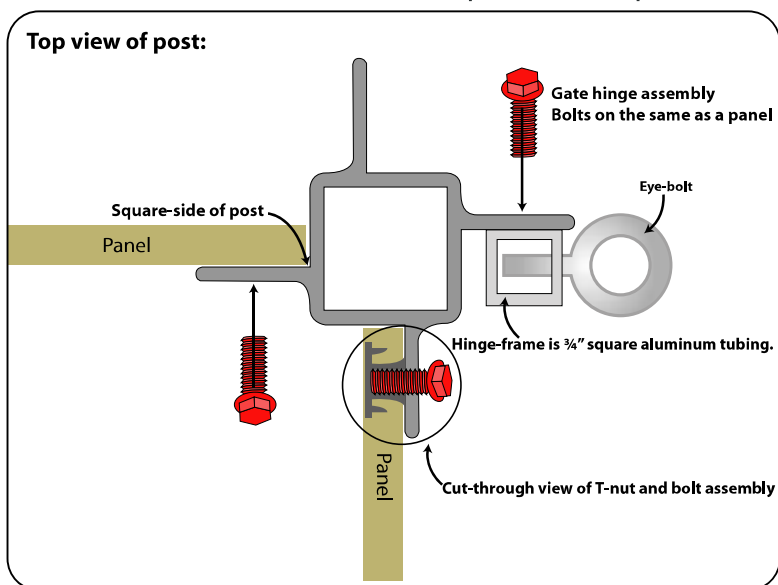
- The rubber gasket should go down against the floor.
- It is easiest to have the panel on the square-side of the post

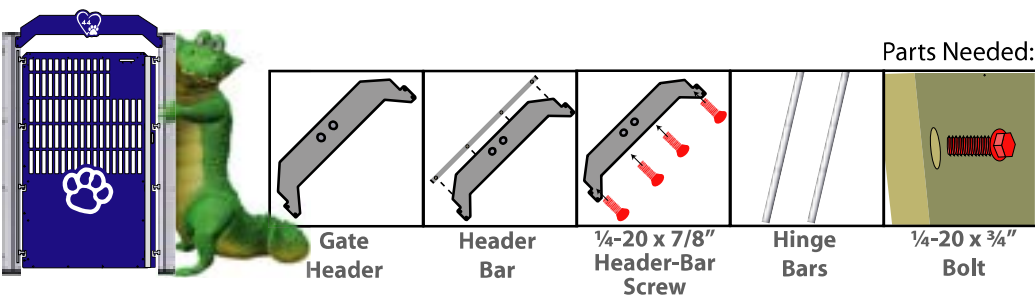
If you have panels more than 4' wide, there will be three parts to the panels:



## 10. Bolt the panels into place.

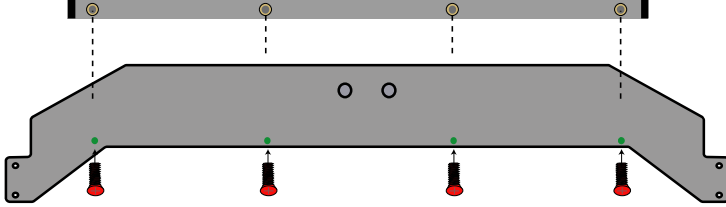
- Use the 1/4-20x3/4" bolt to attach the panel to the post.





### 11. Assemble the header-bar to the header

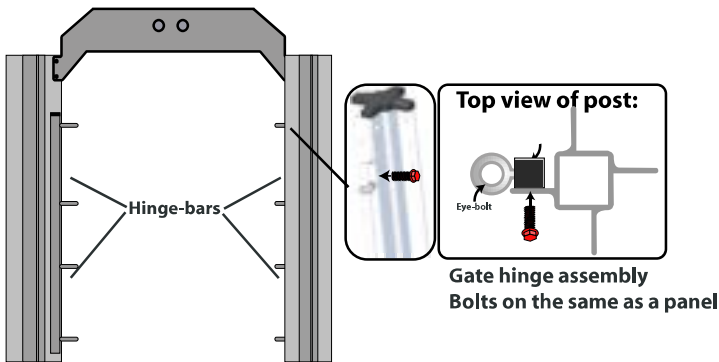
- Use the 1/4-20x7/8" screw to attach the header-bar to the header.
- This helps stiffen up the header so it doesn't bow on uneven floors.**



### 12. Attach the header to the posts or wall brackets.

- Use the 1/4-20x3/4" bolt to attach the header to the post.
- These bolt in the top two holes on the post or wall-bracket.

**The header helps solidify the top of the posts and adds decoration while also labeling (numbering) the kennels.**

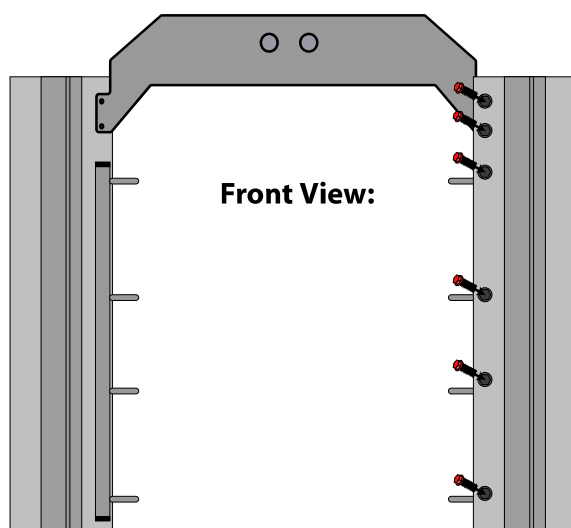
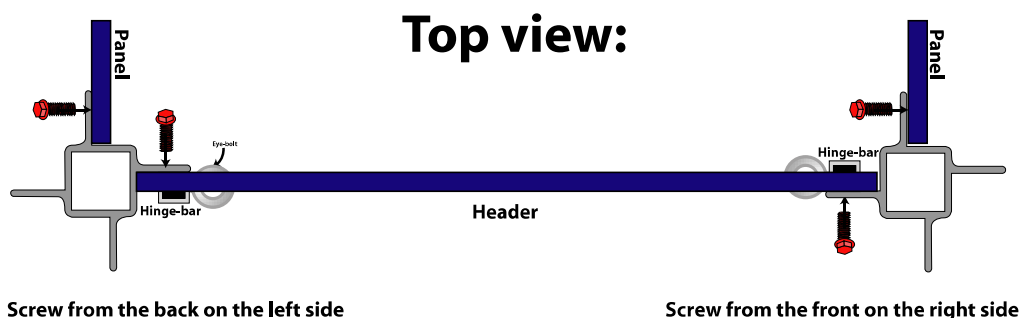


### 13. Attach the hinge-bars to the gate-posts or wall brackets.

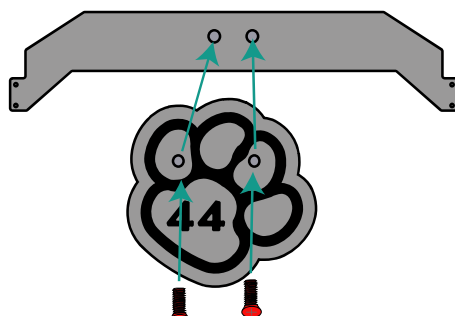
- Use the same 1/4-20x3/4" bolt to attach the hinge-bars.
- The top hole of the hinge-bar should be the next hole below the header.
- Bolt hinge-bars on BOTH sides of the gate-area (one will act as the latch-attachment).
- Point the eyebolts toward each other (into the gate-area).

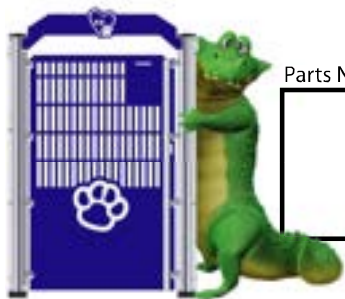


**It is important to install the header-piece as shown!!!  
Failure to do so will result in the gate needing more adjustment  
and possibly even re-adjustments throughout the year!**

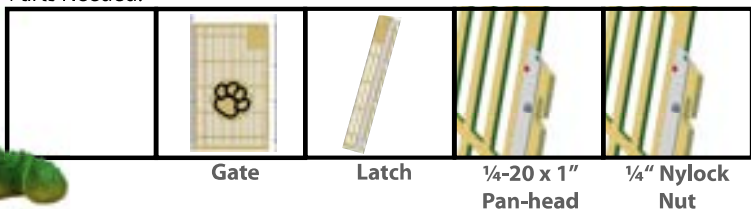


- 13 (a). **(Optional) Attach the number tag to the header**
- Use  $\frac{1}{4}$ -20 x  $\frac{7}{8}$ " screws to attach the number tag to the header.
  - Use the two holes in the header to attach the number tag.



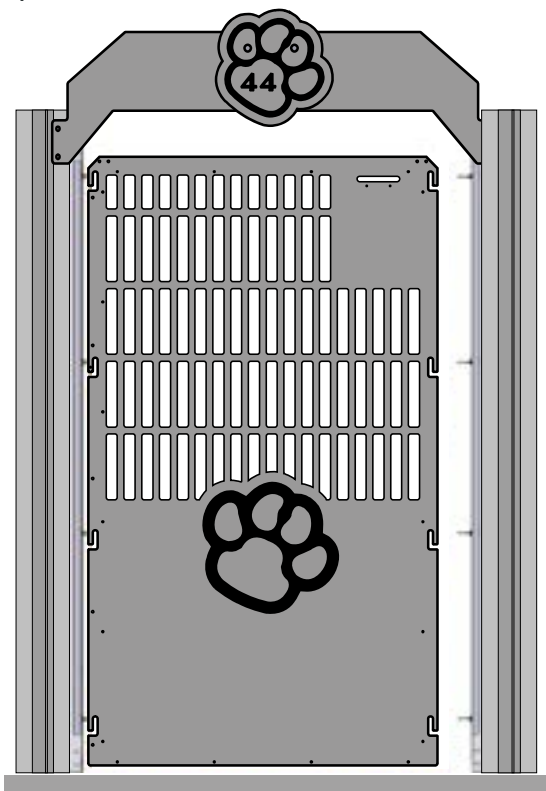


Parts Needed:



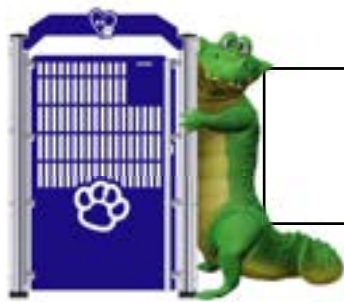
14. **Drop Gate into the eyebolts you want to act as the hinge.**

- The gate will NOT reach the other hinge-bar - yet. Do not worry, we have more pieces to add.



15. **Attach latch to other side of gate.**

- Use 1/4-20 x 1" screw and nylock to attach the latch.
- Holes in the aluminum part of the latch should line up with holes on the gate.
- The latch should now reach the other hinge-bar.



Safety Screws

Latch-lock

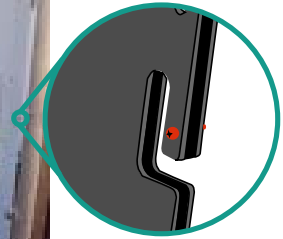
1/4-20 x 1"  
Pan-head1/4" Nylock  
Nut

## 16. Attach the gate safety.

In the event a dog can figure out how to push up the gate far enough to spring it from the hinges, we've included a small screw that keeps that from happening.

- There should be a small hole in the second from the top hinge-pin.
- Insert the safety screw and tighten the nut.

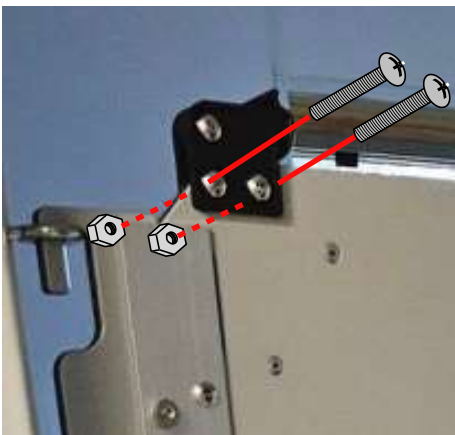
*\*Do not forget this step for the safety of your dogs and staff\**



## 17. Attach the latch-lock.

Some intelligent dogs figure out how to lift the latch. The latch-lock is designed to keep those dogs from being able to lift the latch.

- Use 1/4-20x1" pan-head screws and 1/4" nylock nuts to attach the latch-lock.



**Be sure latch-lock points towards the latch!**  
**This is the "unlocked" position!**

# How to operate the Latch-Lock

Latch lock **open** (latch is able to be lifted).  
Use this position to open and close the gate.

Latch lock **closed** (latch is NOT able to be lifted).  
Use this position to keep the dogs safely contained.



You can test the operation of the latch-lock  
by closing it and trying to lift on the latch.

## How to use holes in Latches

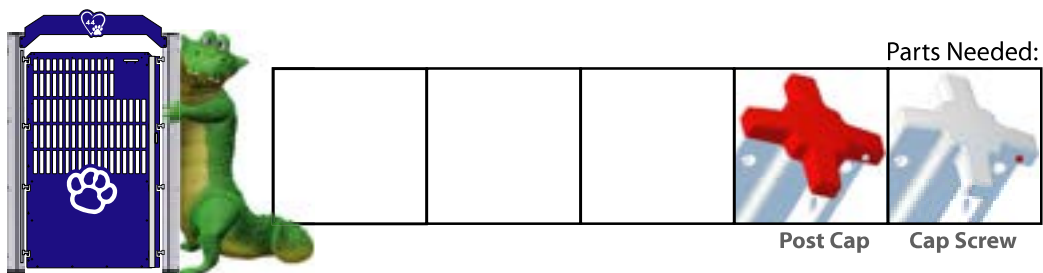
Latch is in closed  
postion.  
Holes lign up



Latch is in open  
postion. Holes  
do not lign up



Latch is in closed  
position allowing a  
carabiner or padlock  
to be attached.  
The dogs can not get  
out of the kennels.



## 18. Attach the post cap.

- The cap helps keep the inside of the post free from hair and it completes the look of the kennels!
- Pop the cap on the post and use the cap screws to lock it in place.
- Two screws per cap is sufficient.

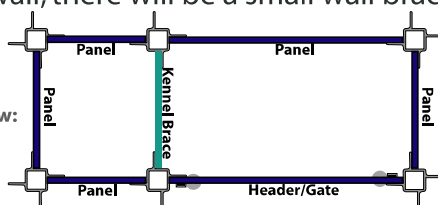
## 18 (a). (Optional) Add the kennel brace to your kennel.

- The kennel brace is used for SOME kennels larger than 4x6.
- The kennel brace attaches just like the header. It can go post-to-post or post-to-wall.
- If your kennels attach to the wall, there will be a small wall bracket included for the kennel brace.

Front view:



Top view:



## 18 (b). (Optional) Attach your fast feeders into your gates.

- If you bought fast feeders from another company, bolt them into the pre-drilled holes now.



# Congratulations!

You have completed the assembly of your kennels!

## Enjoy your new kennels!

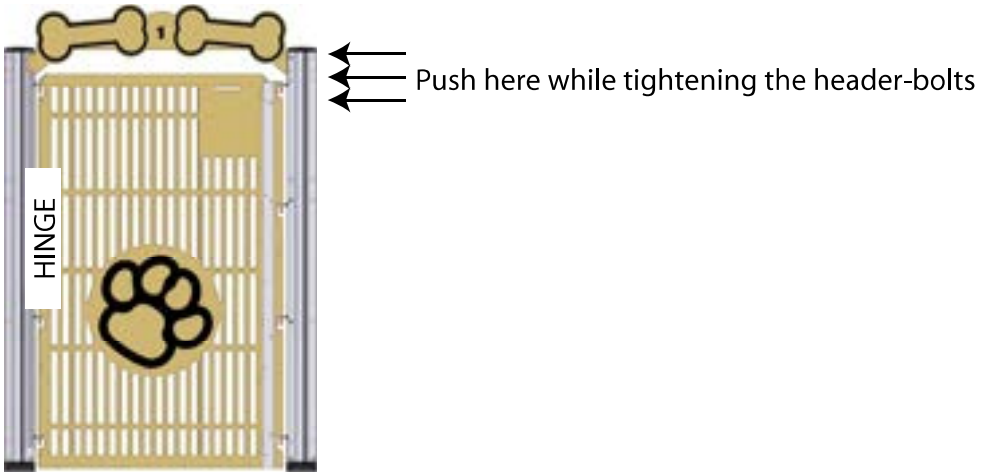


See Finished  
Projects

# Latch Adjustments

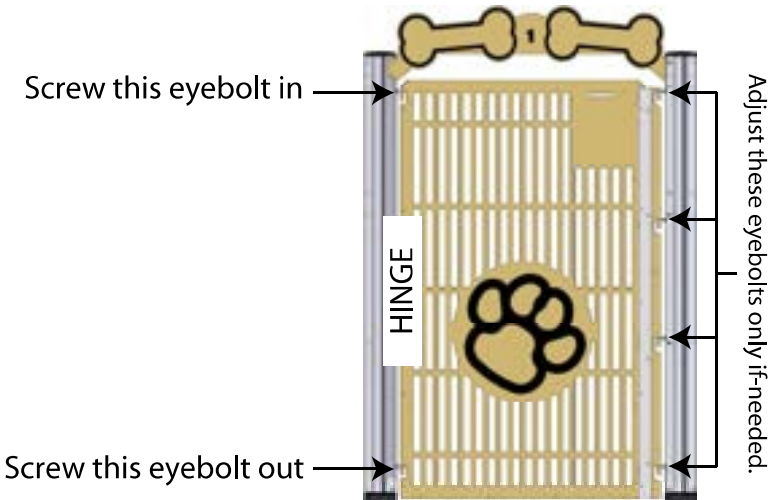
**Make a quick adjustment to make the latch work better.**

- Loosen the bolts on the header-piece
  - Have someone push against the top of the LATCH-Post. This will push the gate up slightly.
- Tighten the bolts to the header while pressure is applied.



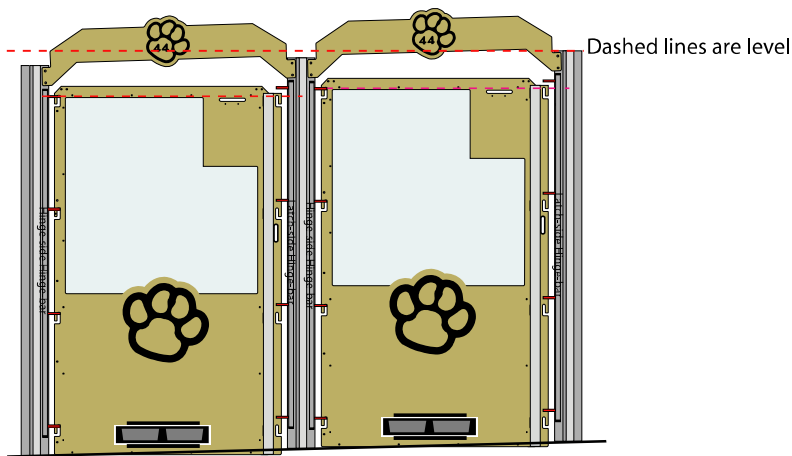
**Other adjustments to try:**

- Screw the TOP eyebolt on the HINGE-side in further.
- Unscrew the BOTTOM eyebolt on the HINGE-side.



# More Adjustments

## Scenario 1: Latch-side is higher than the Hinge-side.

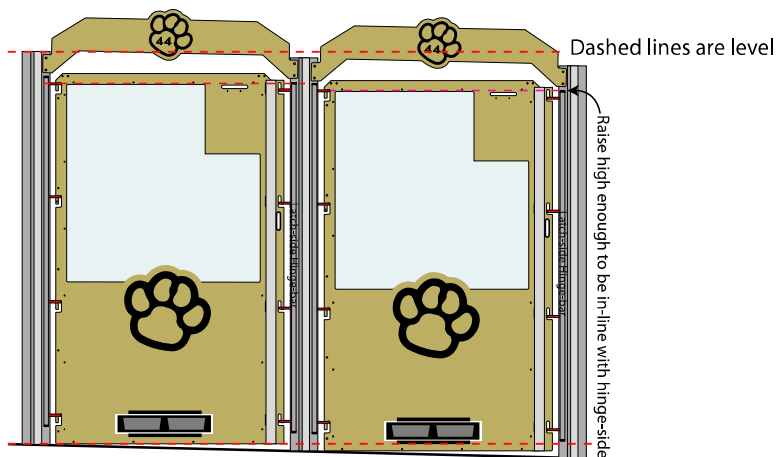


**In this case the hinge-side hinge-bars need to be raised - and the latch-side hinge-bars might need to be lowered.**

Depending on the severity of the slope, the hinge-side hinge-bars need to be raised farther than the post will allow (without running into the header). We have built special hinge-bars in this situation. Contact us if you run into this problem.

Sometimes it is easier to simply reverse the door-swing so the hinge is higher than the latch.

## Scenario 2: Hinge-side is higher than the Latch-side.



**If there is enough room to lift the latch -**

The quickest solution is to raise the latch-side hinge-bar.

This can be done by drilling new holes on the post for the latch-side hinge-bar. The top of the hinge-bar might have to be cut off to allow the hinge-bar to fit below the header.

# Kennel Care

## Here are some things to avoid:

- The use of cleansing products containing **Chlorides, Bromides, Iodides, and Thiocyanates** can discolor and prematurely corrode the kennel (specifically the hardware). Some of these chemicals are also harmful to the animals housed in the kennels and if not rinsed correctly, can cause chemical burns!
- Animal hair should be removed. Hair can hold unwanted bacteria, urine, and molds. This increases the smell and promotes disease.
- Do not use steel-wool pads on any surface as you will scratch off any protective finish and possibly damage the kennel itself.

## These steps should prolong the life of the kennels:

- Any cleansing agent you do use should be thoroughly rinsed and NOT allowed to 'air-dry'.
- Clean off urine as soon as possible.
- Let the kennels dry between use. This not only helps protect the kennel - but it reduces the potential for bacteria or mold cross-contamination.

We found some of the **best** cleansers to use on the kennels is:

**Dawn® Dish soap or Scrubbing Bubbles®!**

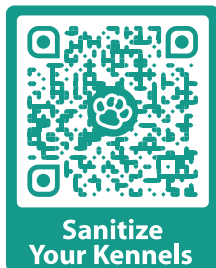
Professional cleansers such as **Wysiwash®** can be used - just be sure to rinse!

## Why we like Dawn® Dish Soap:

- **Dawn® Dish soap** was developed specifically to break down oils.  
Dogs secrete oils through their skin - and rub it all over the kennels.
- This oil attracts dirt, hair, and grime. by breaking down the oils, the grime has nothing to stick to.
- **Dawn® Dish soap** is less irritating to skin and eyes than other chemicals!

## Why we like Scrubbing Bubbles®:

- **Scrubbing Bubbles®** was developed specifically clean HDPE and Aluminum - the very same materials we built your kennels from!



## Sanitizing:

• Sanitizing is often a second step to caring for the kennels. This step kills off unwanted bacteria, molds or viruses. Sanitizing can be done as often as needed to discourage diseases. High-traffic areas can be sanitized daily. We found one of the easiest ways to sanitize your kennels is to use a misting machine. This machine can use any sanitizing chemical and dispenses it in a fine mist to cover all surfaces. Since you are using a fine mist, dogs can be placed back in the kennel faster and you are not wasting as much chemical product by having it run down the drain.