

The New Puppy Checklist

Bringing home a new puppy is an exciting time for any family. Here are a few tips on making the transition easy.

Your Beginner Checklist

Puppy Food



Your puppy's first year is critical to their development. During this time, they need specialized nutrition to promote strong bones and teeth, proper development and a lustrous coat. Start your puppy on the right track with a complete and balanced puppy. We feed our pups Purina Puppy Chow dry dog food.

Training Treats



Purchase treats that are low in calories and are a small size to reinforce a puppy's good behavior during training. And a good rule to live by is the "10% rule." Treats should not exceed 10% of your puppy's daily calorie intake.

Collar and Leash



Your puppy's first collar and leash should be made of lightweight nylon or leather. For collar size, measure his neck and add two inches. Check his collar frequently to be sure he hasn't outgrown it. Six feet is the best length for training and walking. I like the Martindale style collar the best. A harness also works very well.

Identification Tag



An identification tag permanently attached to the collar should give your new dog's name, your name, address and phone number. Another identification option is microchipping. Consult your veterinarian for more information about this method of identification.

Crate



The crate will become your dog's safe place, and their special place to go to sleep and feel secure. Put it near the family hub of activity, so your dog feels welcome. When you are home, leave it open so the pup can go in & out when it wants. The key to successful use of the crate is to always use it in a positive manner — never as a punishment.

Grooming Tools



For short-haired breeds, use a brush with natural bristles, a rubber curry comb or grooming hand mitt. Sturdy wide-tooth metal combs and rakes and a mat detangler are needed for long-haired breeds.

Toys



Safe toys are an important part of your pet equipment. They can help your dog exercise and provide a safe way to satisfy your puppy's need to chew. Rubber toys that can be filled with treats, nylon chews and hard rubber balls are fun and usually safe.

Notebook



Keep all of your puppy's photos, vet records, and vital statistics in one place. This will be especially helpful if your puppy/dog gets lost.

And Don't Forget the Basics



Make sure to grab things like food and water bowls, a dog bed, pet shampoo, a pooper scooper, carpet stain remover, and puppy training materials.