

Border Collie Puppy Shopping Checklist

For New Owners

Bringing home a new puppy, or adult dog, should be a safe, joyful, and well-prepared experience. Every household and dog is unique; always consult your veterinarian and a Certified Professional Dog Trainer for the best information about YOUR puppy or dog.

We've added suggestions for products we have used and that work for us. We encourage you to do your own research and choose the items in these categories that work for you, are safe and effective and are approved by your Veterinarian or Certified Professional Dog Trainer for your puppy.

Pro Tip: Schedule a New Puppy Evaluation with your veterinarian within 7–10 days of bringing your puppy home.

Our SHOP page with curated product links and recommendations is coming soon. Please check back for updates!

Your “First 24 Hours” Essentials

Before Gotcha Day, have these ready:

- ☐ Adjustable collar: (*Lupine Pet, Ruffwear*)
- ☐ Personalized ID tag: (*Amazon; GoTags, DOG iD*)
- ☐ 6-foot leash, **not** retractable: (*Ruffwear, Halti, Heathers Heroes*)
- ☐ Harness, Y-shaped & car tether: (*Ruffwear, PetSafe, KONG Cargo Swivel, CarSafe, Easy Walk, Halti*, if used in car must be crash-tested for travel)
- ☐ Microchip registration/scan: (ask breeder and ensure placement and/or registration, ask YOUR Veterinarian to scan and verify the tag number with you on first puppy Vet visit to make sure the chip is working and the correct number is documented)
- ☐ Crate, hard side or metal, size-appropriate for in home use. See below for travel crate and

soft crate options. Check with your Veterinarian or Certified Professional Dog Trainer for suggestions on type, and research safety of the crate you choose. (*Impact, Petmate, Midwest*)

☐ Stainless or ceramic food and water bowls: (*Van Ness Crock and Gorilla Stainless Steel*)

☐ Puppy food: (*begin with breeder's food; transition over 7–10 days with Veterinarian guidance*)

☐ Puppy-safe bedding: (*Pet Ami, Ethical Pet*)

☐ Enzymatic cleaner: (*Bio Dog, Nature's Miracle*)

☐ Training treats: (*puppy's own kibble or Wellness, Caledon Farms if appropriate*)

Ask Your Breeder

☐ What food and feeding times are my puppy used to, and how much do I feed at one meal?

If I want to change the food to another brand, what other brands do you recommend and how should I change them over to a new food without causing stomach issues?

☐ What brand/type of crate, playpen, collar, leash does my puppy know? What toys does he/she like, or what do you recommend? What supplies worked well for you in training or cleaning?

☐ What schedule or routine do you recommend for the first night, and what should I do to soothe my puppy? Does my puppy go out at night to potty? Does my puppy know how to use a puppy pad or artificial grass mat indoors? What do you recommend as potty times and routines?

☐ What Immunizations has my puppy had up to this point and what does he/she need next? When can I take my puppy in public and how do I socialize them? What health guarantees do you offer and what does your guarantee cover?

Essentials Checklist

Safety, ID & Setup

- ☐ Adjustable collar: (*Lupine Pet, Ruffwear*)
- ☐ Personalized ID tag: (Amazon; *GoTags, DOG iD* quick-clip options)
- ☐ 6-foot leash, not retractable: (*Ruffwear, Heathers Heroes, Halti, Gentle Leader*)
- ☐ Harness for car, Y-shaped, padded. crash-tested for travel: (*KONG Cargo Swivel, Ruffwear CarSafe, PetSafe*)
- ☐ Microchip registration: You will want to make sure your puppy's chip is registered on a National Registry. ([Petlink](#), [AKC Reunite](#))
- ☐ Soft Crate (on board Air Travel) OR Solid Travel Crate (Auto travel or Air Cargo travel, size-appropriate and safety rated (NOTE: Check with your Airline Carrier for specific crates allowed for your specific puppy): (*Petskd Top-Expandable Soft Side Pet Carrier for Cabin Air Travel, Petmate Ultra Vari for Air Cargo, Impact for car travel*)
- ☐ Ex-pen or play yard: (*Midwest, Amazon Basics*)
- ☐ Washable bed, orthopedic mat, fleece, blanket: (Pet Ami, Ethical Pet, *Squishmallows Pet Beds*; durability and washability matters)
- ☐ Safety gate or baby gate: (*MYPET, Toddleroo, Top Paw, MyPet Paws*)

Feeding

- ☐ Stainless/ceramic food bowl: (*Van Ness, Top Paw, etc.*)
- ☐ Slow feeder bowl: (*Outward Hound*)
- ☐ Feeding mat: (*Gorilla Grip*)
- ☐ High-quality puppy food: (*Purina Pro Plan, Orijen, NutriSource*; start with breeder's food, mix in over 7–10 days; consult your veterinarian)
- ☐ Probiotic, anti-diarrheal or Omega 3 supplement if recommended by your Veterinarian: (*Nutramax Provable, EicosaDerm Omega 3*)
- ☐ Training treats: (soft, high-value: *Caledon Farms, Wellness*; watch calories and check with your Veterinarian)
- ☐ Collapsible travel bowl: (*Ruffwear Quencher or similar*)

Grooming & Health

- ☐ Brush/combo: (*KONG ZoomGroom, FURminator Hair Collection Dog & Cat Brush SOFT*)

SILICONE BRUSH, NOT FURMINATOR UNDERCOAT REMOVER)

- ☐ Puppy-safe shampoo: (*Nature's Specialties Berry Gentle Tearless Pet Shampoo, Nature's Specialties Plum Silky Waterless Foam Shampoo, or similar puppy appropriate products*)
- ☐ Wipes: (*Earth Rated hypoallergenic pet wipes*)
- ☐ Nail clippers: (*Millers Forge*)
- ☐ Ear/eye wipes: (*Earth Rated EYE, and Earth Rated EAR*)
- ☐ Toothbrush/toothpaste: (*Virbac C.E.T. Dual-Ended Dog & Cat Toothbrush, Virbac C.E.T. Enzymatic Dog & Cat Vanilla-Mint Flavor Toothpaste, ; Oxyfresh Super Soft BPA-Free Silicone Dog & Cat Finger Brush*)
- ☐ First-aid kit: (*MyMedic, ProPac First Aid Pouch for Dogs*)
- ☐ Flea/tick/worm preventative: *Prescribed by your Veterinarian for this puppy specifically.*

Training, Behavior & Enrichment

- ☐ Clicker Training: (*Karen Pryor Training website, “Getting Started: Clicker Training for Dogs” by Karen Pryor*)
- ☐ Chew toys: (*supervise use: Benebone, KONG Cozie Blue Puppy, Wild Knots Bear, etc. Ask your breeder or rescue for specific recommendations*)
- ☐ Puzzle toys/feeder: (*AWOOF Snuffle Mat, Nina Ottosson Puzzle, KONG toys*)
- ☐ Long line (15–30 ft): *IF recommended by your Certified Professional Dog Trainer.*
- ☐ Treat/training pouch: (*OllyDog Goodie Treat Bag*)
- ☐ Puppy books: “*Meet Your Dog,*”by Kim Brophey, “*Puppy Primer,*” by Paricia McConnell, “*Control Unleashed: Puppy Program*” by Leslie McDevitt

House Training & Cleaning

- ☐ Puppy pads: (*Wee-Wee Pads, Frisco Training Pad Holder,*)
- ☐ Enzymatic cleaner: (*Bio Dog or Bissell products*)
- ☐ Poop bags & dispenser: (*Earth Rated bags and dispenser*)
- ☐ Baby gate or play yard: (*Top Paw® Extra-Tall Walk-Through Pet Gate, or similar*)

Travel & Identification

- ☐ Car harness, seatbelt clip: (*check harnesses for crash rating; KONG Cargo Swivel, Ruffwear CarSafe, PetSafe*)
- ☐ Soft-sided transport carrier: (*Petster Top-Expandable, intended for Airline Carry On use, check your Airline for specific requirements*)
- ☐ Collapsible travel bowl: (*Ruffware*)

Optional & Helpful Additions

- ☐ Cooling mat or vest for heat
- ☐ Calming spray/pheromone diffuser: (*ThunderEase, ADAPTIL*)
- ☐ Play tunnel/agility starter
- ☐ Puppy growth/vaccine journal
- ☐ Grooming mitt: (*Petmate FurBuster*)

BCHQ Quick Tips

- ☐ Feed the same food for at least the first week; ask your veterinarian and Certified Professional Dog Trainer for a safe transition plan
- ☐ Puppy-proof your home before arrival
- ☐ Rotate toys to keep enrichment novel and avoid boredom
- ☐ Use positive, gentle crate training daily. See *Susan Garret for Crate Games* or *McCann Dog Training on YouTube*.
- ☐ Schedule your New Puppy Evaluation at the veterinarian within 7–10 days of coming home.

Print and check off each item! Review with your veterinarian and Certified Professional Dog Trainer. Every recommendation comes from real-world Border Collie experience and best practices.

Always confirm product safety and suitability with your veterinarian and Certified Professional Dog Trainer before purchasing or using anything new. Schedule your New Puppy Evaluation within 7–10 days of bringing your puppy home.

Remember, our SHOP page with curated product links and recommendations is coming soon. Please check back for updates!

[QR CODE to SHOP PAGE GOES HERE] Scan for supplies, links, and resources on our website!

FTC Affiliate Disclosure:

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We only share items we use, trust, and believe are safe for Border Collies. Every situation and puppy is different.

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