



New 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. Look for posts on our [BLOG](#) that talk about product choice and fit.

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

Visit our SHOP page with curated product links and recommendations!

Some items in this checklist use affiliate links, which means I may earn a small commission if you buy through them, at no extra cost to you; as an Amazon Associate, I earn from qualifying purchases.

Your “First 24 Hours” Essentials Before Gotcha Day, have these ready:

- Adjustable collar: *Lupine Pet, Ruffwear, or your favorite retailer.*
- Personalized ID tag: *Amazon option; [GoTags](#) Chewy option; DOG iD , or your favorite retailer.*
- 6-foot leash, **not** retractable: *look for a simple 6' leash at Amazon (i.e. [Halti Training Double Ended Leash](#)), Chewy (i.e. [PetSafe Easy Walk Nylon 3/4" Leash](#)), Lupine Pet (Amazon, local stores and on line), Ruffwear (Amazon, Online at Ruffwear), or from a retailer you like and trust.*
- Harness, Y-shaped: *CarSafe, Easy Walk, Halti, Ruffwear or your favorite vendor, PetSafe.*
ANY of these if used in car must be crash-tested for travel.
- Microchip registration/scan: *ask your Breeder and ensure placement and 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. (i.e. *Impact, Petmate, Midwest*)

Stainless or ceramic food and water bowls: *Amazon* (i.e. *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: *Amazon* (i.e. *Pet Ami*) or other safe, pet rated blankets.

Enzymatic cleaner: (i.e. *Bio Dog, Nature's Miracle*)

Training treats: (i.e. *puppy's own kibble or Wellness Puppy Treats, Caledon Farms, Zukes* if Veterenarian and/or Certified Professional Dog Trainer deem 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 (i.e. [GoTags](#), [DOG iD quick-clip options](#))
- 6-foot leash, not retractable: (*Ruffwear, Halti, Gentle Leader*)
- Harness for car, Y-shaped, padded :**NOTE; ANY of these if used in car must be crash-tested for travel.**: Amazon (i.e. [Ruffwear Load Up Car Harness](#), [KONG Cargo Swivel](#), [Car Safe Dog Safety Harness](#) or any harness you find at your favorite retailer that meets travel safety requirements.
- Microchip registration: You will want to make sure your puppy's chip is registered on a National Registry such as Petlink or AKC Reunite. Ask your Breeder or Veterinarian for their recommendations. _____
- 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): Amazon (i.e. [Petskd Top-Expandable Soft Side Pet Carrier for Cabin Air Travel](#), [Petmate Ultra Vari for Air Cargo](#)), *Impact Dog Crate for car travel (Pricey, but worth it for frequent car travel).*
- Ex-pen or play yard: Amazon (i.e. [Midwest](#), [Amazon Basics](#)), PetSmart, PetCo or retailer of your choice.
- Washable bed, orthopedic mat, fleece, blanket: i.e. 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/comb: (*KONG ZoomGroom, FURminator Hair Collection Dog & Cat Brush SOFT SILICONE BRUSH, NOT FURMINATOR UNDERCOAT REMOVER*)

Puppy-safe shampoo: i.e. *Nature's Specialties Berry Gentle Tearless Pet Shampoo, Nature's Specialties Plum Silky Waterless Foam Shampoo, or similar puppy appropriate products.*

Wipes: i.e. *Earth Rated hypoallergenic pet wipes.*

Nail clippers: i.e. *Millers Forge*

Ear/eye wipes: i.e. *Earth Rated EYE, and Earth Rated EAR.*

Toothbrush/toothpaste: i.e. *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

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

Travel & Identification

- Car harness, seatbelt clip: **check harnesses for crash rating;** i.e. *KONG Cargo Swivel, Ruffwear CarSafe, PetSafe.*
- Soft-sided transport carrier: i.e. *Petskd 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: i.e. *ThunderEase, ADAPTIL*
- Play tunnel/agility starter.
- Puppy growth/vaccine journal.
- Grooming mitt: i.e. *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, visit our SHOP page with curated product links and recommendations!

Disclaimer

All information provided is for general guidance only and should be reviewed by each owner. As a Licensed Family Dog Mediator (LFDM), I offer education and coaching and do not diagnose, treat, or prescribe; always consult your own Veterinarian and a Certified Professional Dog Trainer before applying any advice or routines to your puppy or dog. Some links on this page or site may be affiliate or partner links, and I may earn a small commission at no extra cost to you; as an Amazon Associate, I earn from qualifying purchases. Review our “Terms and Conditions” and “Privacy Policy” for more information.

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