



New Puppy Checklist

20 Essentials for a Happy, Healthy Puppy

Food & Feeding Essentials

- ☐  **1. Puppy Food**
Choose an age-appropriate food. Start with what they're already eating, if possible.
- ☐  **2. Food Bowl**
A stainless steel bowl is affordable, durable and easy to clean.
- ☐  **3. Water Bowl**
Keep fresh water available at all times.
- ☐  **4. Training Treats**
Small, puppy-friendly treats are great for teaching basic commands.

Walking & Safety Essentials

- ☐  **5. Adjustable Collar**
Choose a comfortable, adjustable collar for growing puppies.
- ☐  **6. ID Tag**
Include your phone number in case they get lost.
- ☐  **7. Standard Leash**
A 4- to 6-foot leash gives better control for everyday walks and training.
- ☐  **8. Harness**
A properly fitted harness can make walks easier and help prevent pulling.
- ☐  **9. Pet Gate or Playpen**
Keeps your puppy safely contained while they're learning household rules.

Sleeping & Comfort Essentials

- ☐  **10. Crate or Safe Sleeping Area**
Helps with training and gives your puppy a quiet place to rest.
- ☐  **11. Washable Bed or Blanket**
Start with an inexpensive, machine-washable bed or blanket. You can always upgrade later.
- ☐  **12. Chew Toys**
Puppies chew! Give them safe, appropriate toys to save your shoes and furniture.

Cleaning & Grooming Essentials

- ☐  **13. Poop Bags**
You'll use more of these than you think!
- ☐  **14. Enzymatic Stain Cleaner**
Helps clean up accidents and remove odors.
- ☐  **15. Brush or Comb**
Keeps their coat clean and gets them used to being groomed.
- ☐  **16. Puppy Shampoo**
A gentle, dog-specific shampoo is best.
- ☐  **17. Nail Clippers or Grinder**
Regular nail care keeps paws comfortable.
- ☐  **18. Toothbrush & Toothpaste**
Start dental care early. Use dog-specific toothpaste (never human toothpaste).

Health & Training Essentials

- ☐  **19. Veterinary Appointment**
Schedule a new-puppy visit for vaccines, parasite prevention and overall health.
- ☐  **20. Basic Training Plan**
Start with house training, name recognition, coming when called and short, positive sessions.



Tips & Tricks for a Successful Start

- ☐ Puppy-proof your home (remove small items, cords, toxic plants).
- ☐ Set a routine for meals, bathroom breaks, playtime and rest.
- ☐ Use positive reinforcement and keep training sessions short.
- ☐ Supervise your puppy, especially during the first few weeks.
- ☐ Look for deals at Amazon, dollar stores and local resale groups.
- ☐ Buy adjustable items when possible (puppies grow fast!).
- ☐ Start with a few toys and add more as needed.
- ☐ Choose washable items – accidents happen!
- ☐ Use an enzymatic cleaner for stains and odors.
- ☐ Don't leave your puppy alone for long periods of time.
- ☐ Be patient – puppies need lots of sleep and time to adjust.
- ☐ Most importantly, give them love, good care and a safe home!

