

The Ultimate New Puppy Checklist

THE ESSENTIALS



Food

- High quality daily food without too many preservatives or fillers. Check the ingredients and chat to your vet or the pet store to choose a food specific to your puppy
- A mix of high value treats for training and socialisation. Remember to wean your puppy onto new foods slowly
- Water bowl. Ensure your puppy has access to fresh, clean water at all times

A comfy place to settle down

- A bed or mat for each room of the house you and your puppy spend a considerable amount of time in. If your puppy isn't allowed on the couch, have a mat close by to give them an appropriate place to settle down



A special space in the home

- Restricting your puppy's space while they are young is essential, to protect you and your home from your un-toilet trained and teething puppy!
- Play pen fencing can be used to section off a special space for your puppy
- A soft or metal crate can help with toilet training and can provide your puppy with a safe place, provided it is introduced gradually
- Baby gates can be used to section off carpeted areas of the house to avoid accidents

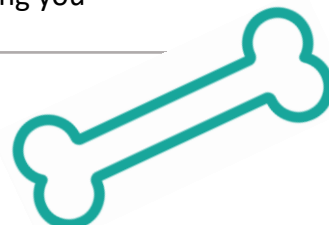
Identification

- ID tag with your phone number and details, to attach to your puppy's collar
- Register your puppy with the council as soon as possible



ENVIRONMENTAL ENRICHMENT

- Dogs need mental stimulation just as much as they need physical exercise
- Food puzzles and interactive toys. Teach your puppy to work for all of their meals using food dispensing toys such as treats balls and Kongs
- Hard Chew toys to sooth your puppy's gums when they are teething
- Soft tug toys to play games with your puppy. A rope toy can build a bridge between their sharp teeth and your skin, to prevent your puppy mouthing you





TOILET TRAINING SUPPLIES

- Synthetic or real grass pet loo. Young puppies do not have much control over their bladder, and need to toilet very frequently. Have a pet loo in the playpen so your puppy has access to the toileting area all of the time
- Puppy pads are not recommended as it can be confusing to train a dog to toilet on two different surfaces (paper pads and the grass outside)
- Enzyme based cleaner to neutralise the scent from accidents
- Poo bags. It is a council requirement to carry waste bags



HEALTH AND GROOMING NEEDS

- Shampoo formulated specifically for dogs. Human shampoo can strip a dog's coat of its natural oils
- Brushes and combs suited to your dog's coat. Begin building positive associations with grooming as early as possible
- Eye and/or ear cleaner if applicable to your breed. Your puppy's ears should be kept clean and dry to prevent infections and under your puppy's eyes should be wiped regularly
- Flea, tick and worm preventative treatment
- Adaptil collar or diffuser to settle your puppy into their new home. This product is a synthetic pheromone, which is a scent that carries a communicative signal. It has been shown to have a calming effect on many dogs



EQUIPMENT FOR GETTING OUT AND ABOUT

- Standard, soft, lightweight collar and leash. Avoid heavy clips and clasps that will weigh your puppy down. Get your puppy used to the leash early!
- Treat pouch for puppy school and socialisation. Food rewards are used for socialisation and for training new exercises. Hide your rewards in a treat pouch to avoid your dog becoming too reliant on the food when training
- Car seatbelt or harness clip for safe and calm travelling. Start with short car rides initially
- Travel blanket or mat if you plan on taking your puppy to a friend's house or to cafes, football games and picnics. Give your puppy somewhere to settle
- No check chains, halters or retractable leashes are needed for your puppy or your adult dog. Teach your puppy exactly what you want them to do rather than correcting their behaviour

