

Getting Ready For Your New Dog

The best way to ensure that your dog will have a smooth transition to its new home is to have everything ready before he or she arrives.

This is a basic guide to a dog's needs. If you have any questions, our friendly and knowledgeable sales staff is always ready to help you determine the best products to care for your pet. By choosing high quality pet food, treats and supplies for your new dog, you will create the perfect environment for a happy, healthy companion.

Before Getting Your New Dog:

Find a book or go online and read-up on your desired breed or breeds (in a mixed breed). Learn about their particular habits, health issues, grooming needs as well as the general pros and cons of welcoming this, or any dog, into your home. Also consider the potential size of the dog when it reaches adulthood. Share all of this information with everyone living in your household, kids included, before bringing the dog home.

It is also important to “dog proof” your home. Put away all household cleaners, chemicals, or other potentially hazardous materials. Remove any objects from the floor or low-lying shelves that could cause the dog or puppy to choke. Keep litter boxes in enclosed spaces or out of reach, and make sure your house is free of any toxic plants (see list on pg. 23).

What Your New Dog Will Need:

Crate:

Crates are important because they allow your dog to have his or her own space, or den. Crate-training your dog inhibits destructive behavior and will help with housetraining. In general, it is not safe to leave toys (or chews) in the crate with your dog, unless the dog is under close supervision. The crate should never be used as a punishment for your dog. Never bang on the crate, kick it or shake it.

Collar & Leash:

For fast growing breeds, select an adjustable collar. For smaller breeds, a lightweight buckle collar is good. Lightweight leashes are also good for smaller dogs. There are many different leash and collar options-- stop into our store and let our sales staff help you find the perfect one for your pet.

Dog Food:

In order to determine the proper type of food for your dog, consult your vet or other pet professionals. There are many different options available, ranging from dry to canned to raw diets. Be aware that large or giant breeds need specific types of food to help prevent problems associated with growth. Our knowledgeable sales staff are available to help you decide what's best to feed your dog on any budget.

To ease the transition to a new household and avoid stress, start off with the same brand of pet food your dog has been eating. After 2 weeks, slowly begin switching your dog onto the new food using this suggested guide (please note, it may take more or less time for your dog to adjust to a new food – make sure stools are firm before moving on to the next step.):

*Day 1-3: 75% old food, 25% new

*Day 4-6: 50% old food, 50% new

*Day 7-9: 25% old food, 75% new

*Day 10: 100% new food

(See more detailed guide on pg. 5)

Grooming Tools:

Good grooming is important and is also a great way for you to bond with your dog. A soft brush gets a dog used to being handled, while a comb is good for long coated breeds and for flea monitoring. Learning how to use dog nail clippers will help you save on grooming expenses.

(See complete nail trimming guide on pg. 14)

Outside Containment:

Runs, kennels, dog houses and trolleys can safely open up the outdoors for your dog.

Remember, however, that if a puppy spends most of his or her time with you outside, they're not going to know what to do with you inside. Make sure to spend time with your puppy both inside and outside.

Toys:

Dogs, especially puppies, love toys. Toys are not only fun for dogs, but offer mental and physical stimulation as well. It is important to supervise a dog the first time it is given any new toy.

Trying different textures and sizes with toys is also important when searching for the right kind of toy(s) for your dog.

If you rotate your dog's toys, he or she will think that they're getting a new toy and you'll get more life out of the toys. Remember never to forcefully take a toy away. Try substituting a treat or another toy for one being taken away.

Chew Toys:

Keeps a puppy working on a toy, not your hand, table or couch.

Soft Chew Toys:

Plush chewable toys for those cuddly times.

Hard Chew Toys:

Raw or sterilized bones, antlers, bully sticks and kongs can provide hours of enjoyment. Dogs should be supervised at all times with any type of hard chew.

Interactive Toys:

Your puppy likes sharing his or her toys with you! Tug toys are good, but make sure that the human always wins (the owner ends the game with the toy).

Supervised Toys:

Some toys can be left with a puppy when you are not around, and some toys cannot. Certain toys can be eaten or swallowed and thus are potential choking hazards or could cause digestive problems. Rope chews, Frisbees/discs, squeaky toys and rawhide should not be left alone with a dog. If you have questions about what toys can and cannot be left alone with a dog, please ask your vet or a member of our sales staff.

Remember, keeping a large variety of toys in rotation will provide the most entertainment for your dog!

Enzyme Cleaner:

No matter how carefully you watch a puppy, there will be accidents. Natural enzymes break-down the molecular bonds of bacteria, "eating" stain causing elements and removing it completely. Enzyme cleaners are safe and effective at thoroughly removing spots, helping prevent dogs from returning to re-mark the same area. Special formulas for cat stains and odors are also available.

Bowls:

You will need separate bowls for food and water. Depending on the amount of food you are feeding, you will need an appropriate sized bowl or elevated double-diner arrangement (recommended for large breed dogs). Stainless steel and ceramic bowls do not scratch and are easier to sterilize. Plastic bowls need to be inspected regularly and should be replaced once scratching and/or flaking occurs. Always have fresh water available for your dog.

Treats:

Dogs love treats. Treats come in many flavors, shapes, textures and sizes and can be extremely helpful when training your new dog, as they are an effective reward. Remember that treats have calories, though, and should be used in moderation. Kibbled dog food is also a great lower calorie substitution. Food servings, in general, should be cut back on big treat training days.

Socialization:

Dogs are social animals. If you have a puppy, make sure it gets to interact with responsible children and older dogs. Introduce your puppy to all situations that you think they will come into contact with. Be your own judge when you think your puppy has had enough socialization--don't over stimulate them all at one time. Training classes or doggie daycare are great ways to socialize your puppy and have fun, too. All dogs need exercise and activity to keep them happy and healthy.

Beds:

Dog beds provide a comfortable place for your pet to rest. This is especially important during the winter months, as a bed will keep your dog off the cold drafty floor!

Veterinarian:

Make sure to take your dog or puppy in for regular check-ups at the vet. Keep both your vet's phone number and an after-hours, emergency vet's phone number in a convenient place at home, and carry those numbers with you as well. Make sure to get your puppy spayed or neutered when he or she is the age recommended by your vet.

Burlington Emergency & Veterinary Specialists [BEVS]: (802) 863-2387.

For additional information about your dog's health or questions you should ask your vet or visit:

FDA: <http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/default.htm>

ASPCA: <http://www.aspca.org/>

I.D. Tags & License:

A simple I.D. tag can reunite a lost dog and their owner quickly and relatively easily. Make sure that your puppy always wears his or her up-to-date I.D. tag. Having your dog licensed by your town is not only the law, but it will also help if your dog is lost.

Flea Comb: Part of grooming. This will help you detect potential infestation.

Quick List of Supplies for your new dog:

- Family and Owner Commitment
- Super Premium Diet
- Kennel or Crate
- Enzyme Stain & Odor Remover
- Toys & Chews
- Collar & Leash
- Grooming Tools (brush, nail clippers, flea comb, etc.)
- Treats
- Bedding
- Vet Visit - Spay or Neuter
- Socialization Class
- Food & Water Bowls
- Food Storage Bins
- I.D. Tag & License
- Tooth Brush and Toothpaste
- Breed Specific and Dog Training Books/Magazines
- Flea & Tick Control Products
- Poop Bags/Scoopers

