

New Dog Supply List

Adding a dog to your family is an exciting time. But before you bring your dog home you need to be prepared with some needed supplies.

Water and Food Bowls

Bowls should be heavy enough that they don't easily tip over.

A rubber pad placed under dog bowls can help prevent messes from spreading all over your floor.

Food

Find out the brand of dog food your dog was eating at his last home/shelter. If you choose to switch to another brand or type do it slowly. Mix half of the new food with the old for a few days.

Buy food that is good quality without a lot of grains and filler.

Choose food that is appropriate for the age and weight of your dog.

Treats – You'll need these for training your dog.

Note: There have recently been recalls on dog food and treats manufactured in China so be aware of where the dog food you buy originates. Because of these problems some people choose to make their own dog treats so they can be sure the ingredients are safe for their pet.

Crate

Your dog needs a crate large enough that he can stand up and turn around in but not much larger. If the crate is too large your dog will start to use the extra space as a place to defecate. Generally dogs don't want to mess up the place they sleep so get the right size crate for now and plan to get a larger one when they get bigger.

Crate training is popular in assisting with house breaking. Your dog should think of his crate as his safe haven, not as punishment.

A pad or blanket should be added.

Gates

You don't want a puppy or new dog to have complete access to your home while you're gone. Decide which rooms are safest and use gates to designate his safe area, someplace free of electrical cords and small toys.

Collar or Harness

A collar should be tight enough that he can't squeeze out of it but not so tight it's uncomfortable. You should be able to place two or three fingers under the collar. Be sure to check the collar periodically and replace with a larger one as he grows.

Place a tag on the collar with your name and phone number in case your dog ever manages to wander off.

A harness is better for some dogs. This is especially true for small dogs that can experience trachea problems if their collar is pulled too hard.

Leash

Short leashes are better for puppies so you can keep better control of them.

Longer leashes or retractable leashes can be used for trained dogs.

Some leashes come with a small holder for poop bags which is convenient.

Bedding

If your dog is not going to sleep in his crate, we recommend a dog bed. This gives him a safe and comfortable place that is all his own. You may want a blanket for his own as well.

Toys

Invest in some chew toys, Puppies love to chew so if you don't provide toys, they'll find your shoes, the kids toys, socks, and dangerous items such as electrical cords.

Some toys are made to have peanut butter or another type of food placed inside. These can entertain your dog for long periods of time.

Grooming

Dog Shampoo. Human shampoos can be bad for your dog's skin.

Brush. This depends on the type of coat your dog has.

Clippers. If your dog is a breed that needs grooming, such as a poodle, you'll need to decide if you're going to take him to a professional groomer for regular visits or learn to do the grooming yourself.

Toothbrush. Dental problems can be expensive so use preventive care by brushing your dog's teeth daily.

Toothpaste. Buy a brand that is made for dogs. Human toothpaste is not made to be swallowed and can upset your dog's tummy. He'll also prefer a chicken flavored toothpaste more than mint or cinnamon.

Nail clippers. Your dog's nails need to be clipped by either you, the groomer, or the vet.

Pads

If you're not home during the day to let your dog out, you'll need to train him to use pads that are designed for this purpose. Some are washable and others are disposable.

Cleaning Supplies

Cleaners to remove the stain and smell after accidents. Your dog will return to where he has urinated before so you want to remove the smell as quickly as possible.

Travel Carrier

A carrier just slightly bigger than your dog for trips to the vet, the groomers or while on vacation.

Doggie Seat Belt

If your dog doesn't ride in a carrier in the car, he'll need a seat belt.

Phone number for a Veterinarian

Talk to friends and neighbors who are pet owners and find out which vet they use and why they like him. Set up an appointment soon to have your new pet checked over and to start any shots that are needed.

Find out a number you can call in case of emergencies after business hours.

Additional Items

As you learn your dog's personality and needs, you'll want to add other items to your home. An older dog might benefit from ramps to help him climb onto furniture or beds. If your dog sheds a lot you might want covers for the chairs he's allowed to sit on or the backseat of your car.