

PUPPY SHOPPING LIST

Food: Feed your puppy a premium diet made for puppies. Puppies should be fed 2-3 times per day (3 times daily for puppies under 12 weeks old, twice daily for older puppies). The food should be offered for 20 minutes and then picked up after that time, or when the puppy walks away. Feeding your puppy this way will help with housebreaking as it makes it more predictable when they are going to have a bowel movement. When switching diets, make sure to transition your puppy gradually to the new diet.

Treats: Soft or small treats for training are ideal and can help with both housebreaking and basic obedience. Carry treats with you when taking your puppy outside to go potty to praise them immediately for going to the bathroom outside. Treats should only be given when the puppy has “worked” for it. Your puppy should only be given treats as a reward for good behavior.

Toys and chews: Offer your puppy a variety of toys and things to chew on to prevent him from chewing on inappropriate things around the house. Make sure to choose durable toys that are appropriate for your puppy’s size and age. Avoid rope toys or toys with small pieces as they could be swallowed and cause blockages in the intestines. Avoid rawhides as many puppies will get an upset stomach from these. Here are a few good suggestions:

- ◆ Balls (be sure they are too large to be swallowed)
- ◆ Nylabones
- ◆ Any Kong toy—these are wonderful to help keep your puppy occupied while you are busy or away. **See Kong stuffers section for ideas.
- ◆ Squeak toys



Bowls: You will need a food and a water bowl. It is best to purchase ceramic or metal bowls. They are easier to keep clean and your puppy won’t be able to chew them up. For giant breed dogs (Great Dane, Mastiff, etc.) it is recommended to buy dishes that can be elevated.

Leash and Collar: Nylon or leather are recommended. A 4’-6’ leash is best for training purposes. A Gentle Leader system is recommended for training purposes. When purchasing through our hospitals, we will fit the head-collar to your puppy and show you how to fit and adjust it properly.

ID Tag: A tag should be worn at all times. Be sure it includes your contact information and make sure to update it frequently! You may also want to consider having your puppy microchipped. This is a permanent form of identification that is injected under the skin. The information associated with this chip should also be changed and updated as needed.

Grooming: Select grooming tools appropriate for your dog’s coat. Select a groomer (if necessary) and discuss with her how often it is best to have your puppy groomed or bathed. When selecting a shampoo to bathe your puppy at home, select a shampoo made for puppies. A “soap free” shampoo is best. Do not use a shampoo that kills fleas and ticks. Never use a shampoo made for humans on your puppy. You may also want to buy grooming wipes to use in between baths or grooming appointments. When bathing, be sure to avoid getting shampoo in your puppy’s eyes or ears. This can cause irritation or even infections. Use an ear cleaner with a drying solution after bathing to help prevent infections from occurring. Be sure to play with your puppy’s mouth, eyes, ears, and feet frequently so they get used to having those areas touched. Here are some suggestions of grooming supplies to purchase:

- ◆ Brush or comb appropriate for your puppy’s coat
- ◆ Puppy shampoo
- ◆ Grooming wipes
- ◆ Nail clipper and styptic powder (Kwik Stop)
- ◆ Toothbrush and puppy toothpaste (never use human toothpaste)

Kennel: When selecting a kennel or crate for your puppy, be sure to choose one that is just large enough for your puppy to stand up, turn around and lay down in. If your puppy is a large breed puppy, it is fine to purchase a larger kennel that they can grow into, but be sure to partition the kennel so they don’t have too much space. When purchasing a pad for the kennel, make sure it is durable and non-absorbent.



Cleaning supplies:

- ◆ Nature’s Miracle for accidents around the house
- ◆ Pooper-scooper
- ◆ Baggies to pick up bowel movements on your walks

Kong stuffers:

- ◆ Dry dog food
- ◆ Canned dog food
- ◆ Cooked rice
- ◆ Apples, green beans, carrots
- ◆ Peanut butter
- ◆ Cream cheese
- ◆ Cottage cheese
- ◆ Low-sodium chicken broth
- ◆ Meat baby foods

◆ Kong Stuffing tips

- ◆ Place “wet” ingredients in the small hole of the Kong toy and freeze to keep goodies inside. Keep a spare Kong in the freezer so you always have one available for your puppy.
- ◆ Occupy your puppy during dinner by feeding their regular amount of kibble in the Kong toy. Canned and dry foods can be mixed, or water can be added to dry kibble then frozen.
- ◆ Kong toys can be placed in the dishwasher to clean after use.

**Remember, any new food can cause your puppy’s stomach to become upset. Experiment with small amounts to see how your puppy reacts to the ingredients.