

Puppy Essentials To-Do Checklist



Before Your Puppy Comes Home

- ☐ Choose a veterinarian and schedule your first puppy check-up
- ☐ Buy a puppy training book or guide to get prepared
- ☐ Buy high-quality puppy food recommended by your vet or breeder
- ☐ Pick up no-flip bowls for food and water
- ☐ Choose an adjustable collar and leash
- ☐ Order a Pet ID tag
- ☐ Select a cozy puppy bed, crate, and blanket
- ☐ Create a secure pet space (playpen or play space)
- ☐ Stock up on a variety of toys to discover what your pup likes best
- ☐ Choose teething chews and safe chew sticks
- ☐ Gather poop bags, potty pads, and cleaning supplies (My Pet Peed is a life saver)
- ☐ Find small, soft training treats for rewards
- ☐ Secure pet potty space (check fences and gates)

First Week With Your Puppy

- ☐ Take your puppy to the vet for a full exam
- ☐ Start your puppy's vaccination schedule in a book or on your smart phone
- ☐ Ask your vet about parasite prevention and flea/tick treatments
- ☐ Begin teaching your puppy their name and rewarding response
- ☐ Hand feed your puppy multiple meals to begin bonding
- ☐ Start crate training with blanket to introduce day and night schedule
- ☐ Establish a feeding routine with 3-4 small meals per day measuring food
- ☐ Begin gentle training sessions using positive reinforcement
- ☐ Schedule playtimes, short walks, and nap times
- ☐ Socialize your puppy safely by introducing new sounds and environments
- ☐ Introduce puppies to car rides as part of daily routines
- ☐ Keep a puppy bag ready for vet visits, outings, and emergencies
- ☐ Let your puppy spend individual time with each member of the family

During Year One

- ☐ Complete all puppy vaccination rounds on schedule
- ☐ Schedule your puppy's spay or neuter based on vet recommendations
- ☐ Keep up with flea, tick, and heartworm prevention
- ☐ Continue crate training and increase freedom as your pup learns
- ☐ Begin leash training and practice calm walking skills
- ☐ Work on core commands like sit, stay, come, leave it, and drop it
- ☐ Enroll in a puppy training class or join a local obedience group
- ☐ Socialize your puppy regularly with other dogs, people, and environments
- ☐ Upgrade your puppy's collar and gear as they grow
- ☐ Transition to adult food when recommended by your vet
- ☐ Schedule a wellness exam around your puppy's first birthday to check growth, weight, and development
- ☐ Continue using positive reinforcement to encourage good habits
- ☐ Rotate toys and chews to keep playtime fun and mentally stimulating
- ☐ Track milestones like first successful walks, nights without accidents, and training progress