



## Puppy Check List

Getting a New Puppy is an awesome, amazing experience. You will have many good times. You will have times when you wonder what you were thinking. And then there are those moments, when your puppy looks up at you with a smile, or is caught up in play, or sleeping contentedly, when you will wonder how you ever lived without your puppy.

Your excitement will gush and you will want to buy all the very best for your puppy. Love that excitement.

But, **DON'T OVERSPEND** now. You'll get a retail hangover. This checklist is to help you decipher what is an immediate need, a short term need, and then those things that can wait. You can also read the companion piece *Getting Started with your Puppy* (coming soon) for additional tips to raising your new puppy.

### Prior to arrival:

- ✓ **Quality, Healthy Dog Food:** Good food will effect growth, limit diarrhea, and help training
- ✓ **An AFFORDABLE collar and leash:** Your puppy will grow quickly. Don't spend overboard now.
- ✓ **Poop Bags:** Cause poop happens
- ✓ **An Adjustable size crate:** Puppies need help making good decisions
- ✓ **1 package small biscuits:** For inside training
- ✓ **Regular first aid kit with Neosporin, Band-aids, and Wrap**
- ✓ **DO at this stage**
  - *Start a Facebook Page or Puppy Blog:* Payback on all those kid pics
  - *Talk to 2-3: Vets, Trainers, Dog Walkers:* There is no one Vet, etc. who is Right for everyone. It's about skill AND relationship, as well as unfortunately, cost.

### Buy Now

- ✓ **2 ceramic bowls:** You absolutely CAN USE cute cereal bowls from Crate and Barrel, etc.
- ✓ **Frozen Chicken & a Bag of Rice (substitute Grandma Lucy's Artisan Freeze Dried Chicken):** Your puppy WILL get diarrhea
- ✓ **A treat dispensing toy:** Kong, TreatStik™, Star Spinner Dog Toy Puzzle or similar; try feeding your dog from one
- ✓ **1 package soft treats:** For outside and high distraction environments
- ✓ **Bravo Bites, other Hot Dogs or Cheese Slices:** Reserve for "special moment training" like grooming practice
- ✓ **Long tooth metal comb (for medium or long hair breeds):** Get your puppy used to being combed NOW. Oh...and play with his feet often. You can use one of your old combs.



- ✓ **No-rinse Puppy Shampoo**
- ✓ **Finger Paint:** Everybody needs baby foot prints!
- ✓ **An Old Backpack or Gym Bag for grooming supplies**
- ✓ **DO at this stage:**
  - *Get your puppy chipped. As SOON AS POSSIBLE!*
  - *Mark your vet update appointments on your calendar*
  - *Sign up for puppy classes. Practice good training before it becomes a problem.*

### Buy Soon

- ✓ **SEVERAL bags of soft treats:** Keep your puppy from getting bored by mixing several treat types together
- ✓ **Nail clippers:** Get ones that look like pruning shears. Practice now. Reward after each practice
- ✓ **Styptic Powder:** You WILL get your dog's quick. It's like cutting your face shaving. Don't freak out. Just stop the blood flow and move on.
- ✓ **Soft Toys:** If your dog plays nicely, he keeps the toy. If he tries to disembowel, he loses it. It's part of training.
- ✓ **Tug Toy:** Tug can be ok, especially to practice "Release" command. Treat if he releases, take away toy and don't treat if he doesn't
- ✓ **A couple more freezable and/or stuffable toys:** Rotate, rotate, rotate
- ✓ **DO at this stage:**
  - *Get your puppy professionally groomed, if only to get him used to being touched*
  - *Have friends "handle" your puppy*
  - *Introduce your puppy to as many new sights and sounds as possible.*
  - *Schedule your neutering appointment. Most vets recommend doing it between 4 and 8 months, but for low cost centers, you may need to schedule 1-2 months in advance*

### You can wait:

- ✓ **Training/no-pull collar or harness:** Often your trainer will have made a very specific recommendation about which one to use
- ✓ **A FANCY Bowl**
- ✓ **A FANCY collar or leash:** Save the big bucks until he stops growing
- ✓ **A FANCY or FORMAL Pet Bed:** Use a folded up old blanket, pillow or even towel until you see his sleeping patterns. Is he a curler or a spreader? Does he like cups or flat open spaces? Not to mention, well, puppies will pee on beds. A towel or blanket is easier to wash.
- ✓ **Food storage bin:** Are you going to stick with kibble, go raw, or use cans? Decide what you're going to do before you invest.