

What to Buy Guide for Puppies

WHAT TO BUY ahead of time?

A **crate** that fits the puppy (if you buy an extra-large crate, we recommend getting the dividers so you can adjust as the puppy grows). To select the "right" size, the crate should be large enough for the puppy to stand up all the way, and turn around. Avoid a lot of extra space as the puppy can pee on one side and nap on the other.

You need an **Enzyme Cleaner** for house accidents. We recommend "Natures Miracle" for urine on the carpet. It changes the pH levels and makes it less likely the dog will sniff out the spot for a second "oops" after the accident is cleaned up.

Pick up some **toys**- It is totally fine to go a little over board but we recommend leaving 3-4 toys out at a time. The other toys can be left in a closet and swapped out to ensure the puppy has new toys for entertainment. Some recommended toys:

1. Kong (The puppy will get bigger, so buy a size the dog will grow into)
2. Nylabone (there are different chew toys to select from. Check the label and make sure it is appropriate for their age)
3. Something soft, squeaky, and fun (make sure you monitor your dog anytime it is chewing a toy it can rip apart. Do not leave plush toys in the crate)

You need **food!** We highly recommend doing some research and picking a food that is well balanced for your new dog and fits your wallet. Here is a great link for comparing different foods: <http://www.dogfoodadvisor.com>. We recommend avoiding foods rated 3 stars or lower on this website. To keep your pet healthy throughout their life, you want to feed it something good for them.

Treats! Of course we can't forget you will need to purchase some treats! I recommend reading the label and choosing something that is healthy for your dog. As a puppy, you will likely be going through quite a few treats, while training the puppy. So something small, most labels will say "Great for Training!" I also use carrots, apples, and hot dogs (this is considered a high value treat) to do training. My dogs love carrots and apples- they are healthy and easy to give.

TEETH STUFF... This is one of the most missed items. Some people think, "My puppy is going to lose all its baby teeth, why should I brush them?" A few answers - 1. It's important to get pups use to having their mouths played with, fingers in them, and a tooth brush. 2. Habits take 30 days to form. If you start teeth brushing from day one, you are more likely to keep up with the habit. Here is a great link with information: <http://pets.webmd.com/dogs/features/brushing-dogs-teeth-beneficial>

We cannot stress how important it is to start on your young, impressionable puppy on the right track! Having the right tool kit will help you do just that! Good luck!

