

# New Puppy Checklist

Checklist · 28 items · 6 sections

Everything you need to prepare before bringing a new puppy home. Covers essential supplies, puppy-proofing your home, first vet visit, and early training steps.

Open the editable version online:

<https://genechecklist.com/checklist/new-puppy-checklist>

## ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES

- Dog crate (appropriately sized: snug enough to discourage accidents)

HIGH

*Get one with a divider to grow with your puppy rather than buying two crates*

- Dog bed or crate pad

HIGH

- Puppy food: same brand as breeder/shelter was feeding (transition slowly)

HIGH

*Sudden food changes cause digestive upset: transition over 7-10 days*

- Food and water bowls (stainless steel or ceramic: avoid plastic)

HIGH

- Collar with ID tag (name and phone number)

HIGH

- Leash (4-6 foot standard leash for training)

HIGH

- Puppy-specific treats for training

HIGH

- Chew toys (puppies WILL chew: redirect to appropriate items)

HIGH

- Interactive toys (rope toy, puzzle feeder, ball)

- Enzyme cleaner for accidents (Nature's Miracle or similar)

HIGH

*Regular cleaners don't eliminate the scent that draws puppies to repeat in the same spot*

- Puppy pads (useful early in house training)

## GROOMING

- Puppy-safe shampoo
- Brush or comb appropriate for coat type
- Nail clippers or styptic powder (or plan for groomer visits)

## VETERINARY CARE

- Schedule first vet appointment within 48-72 hours of bringing puppy home  
**HIGH**
- Get puppy's vaccination records from breeder or shelter  
**HIGH**
- Ask vet about deworming, flea/tick prevention, and heartworm prevention  
**HIGH**
- Research and register with a local vet before pickup day  
**HIGH**
- Plan for microchipping (usually done at first vet visit or breeder may have done)  
**HIGH**

## PUPPY-PROOFING

- Secure all electrical cords, wires, and charging cables  
**HIGH**
- Store chemicals, medications, and cleaning supplies behind closed cabinet  
**HIGH**
- Check for toxic houseplants (lilies, aloe, philodendron are toxic to dogs)  
**HIGH**
- Install baby gates to restrict access to stairs or off-limit rooms
- Secure trash cans with lids

## TRAINING

- Enroll in puppy obedience class (ideally starting at 8-12 weeks)  
**HIGH**  
*Socialization window closes around 14-16 weeks: early exposure is critical*
- Begin crate training from day one  
**HIGH**
- Establish house training routine: outside every 1-2 hours and after meals  
**HIGH**

## FINANCIAL

- Research pet insurance: compare plans before first vet visit