

First-Time Dog Owner



ESSENTIALS

- ☐ Collar
- ☐ ID Tag
- ☐ Leash
- ☐ Dog Food
- ☐ Food & Water Bowls
- ☐ Vaccinations

GROOMING

- ☐ Dog Brush
- ☐ Dog Nail Clippers
- ☐ Flea & Tick Protection
- ☐ Toothbrush & Toothpaste
- ☐ Ear Cleaner
- ☐ Dog Shampoo

WALKING/TRAINING

- ☐ Harness
- ☐ Poop Bags & Dispenser
- ☐ Travel Bowl & Water
- ☐ Training Treats
- ☐ Dog Training Book
- ☐ Weatherproof Gear

HOME/PLAY

- ☐ Dog Bed
- ☐ Dog Crate & Liner
- ☐ Chew Toys
- ☐ Play Toys (balls, frisbee, etc)
- ☐ Doorway Gate/Fencing System
- ☐ Deodorizing Spray



CHECKLIST

Preparing Your Home For A Dog



- ☐ **Extension Cords:** Wrap exposed cords with cord covers, put cords away when not in use, and secure wires from lamps, TVs, and phones.
- ☐ **New Trash Can:** Get a metal trash with locking lids to prevent chewing can and pet-proof lid. Don't forget the bathroom trash can, too!
- ☐ **Chew Toys:** Buy lots and lots of chew toys to ease anxiety and prevent chewing. Get a variety of textures, sounds, and materials for added stimulation.
- ☐ **Clean Counters:** Remove food from counters. Don't ever allow your dog to make the connection that tasty things can be found on tables and counters.
- ☐ **Remove Toxic Plants:** Remove toxic houseplants that are harmful to pets.
- ☐ **Fence Your Yard:** Fence your yard with a wood, chain link, or vinyl fence. This will keep danger out. Also, fence with an electric dog fence to keep your dog in.
- ☐ **Create Their "Spot":** Choose spots in your home for your dog bed, eating station, and play areas.
- ☐ **Childproof Cabinets:** Use childproof latches to keep them from opening cabinets.
- ☐ **Close Bathroom Doors:** Keep the toilet lid closed and consider keeping the bathroom door closed at all times.
- ☐ **Hide These Items:** Look for the following items around your house and move them out of the way.
 - ☐ Socks & Shoes
 - ☐ Medications
 - ☐ Lotion & Cosmetics
 - ☐ Plastic Bags
 - ☐ Counter Knives
 - ☐ Charging Cables
 - ☐ Extension Cords
 - ☐ Important Documents
 - ☐ Fireplace Screen & Grate
 - ☐ Unsecured Lamps & Vases
 - ☐ Items w/Batteries
 - ☐ Coasters
 - ☐ Headphones
 - ☐ Expensive Rugs & Curtains
 - ☐ Jewelry & Hair Bands



CHECKLIST

First Month Of Dog Ownership



- ☐ **Prep Your Home:** Wrap cords, get a pet-proof garbage, store away food and important small items, fence your yard, buy bedding, food, and toys,
- ☐ **Potty Training:** Start potty training ASAP by taking your pup potty after eating, drinking, waking, and before bed.
- ☐ **Parasite Prevention:** Schedule an appointment with a vet to discuss options for preventing ticks, fleas, and worms.
- ☐ **Vaccinations:** Schedule your first vet appointment within the first month to start vaccinations. Dogs need core vaccines for rabies, distemper, parvovirus, adenovirus, and canine parainfluenza.
- ☐ **Microchipping:** Even if your dog isn't an escape artist, get it microchipped. If it gets away without its collar, you'll have an increased chance of its safe return.
- ☐ **Training Classes:** There's no shame in asking for help with dog training. Especially if you're a first-time dog owner or if you live a busy work lifestyle.
- ☐ **Licensing:** Some states require that all dogs be licensed and vaccinated against rabies.
- ☐ **Socialization:** Dogs not socialized early may be reactive to other canines or people they don't know. The first step is getting your dog to act neutral around other dogs. That doesn't necessarily mean tons of interaction!
- ☐ **Pet Insurance:** Pet insurance makes really hard decisions much easier. Enroll your dog early to get the best rate.
- ☐ **Savings Account:** Owning a pet is not cheap! Start a savings account so you have money for unexpected expenses that insurance won't cover. The first year of dog-ownership will cost between \$1,000 - \$5,000.
- ☐ **Spay & Neutering:** Spayed or neutered pets are easier to train and more focused. Decreases aggressive behavior and creates a safer community.