



Preparing for Puppy Materials Checklist

For first time puppy owners, (or owners that have maybe forgotten what life with a new puppy looks like) there are thousands of resources out there to sort through. This series of "Preparing for Puppy" handouts, will help consolidate that information and give you a glimpse of how I raise puppies to be successful, well-mannered, family members. This handout will focus on the materials and supplies that I recommend purchasing, or making, before bringing home your new pup. Training is not covered in this handout.

Puppy Pen

- The Puppy Pen is where the puppy will spend most of its time initially
- The pen should be located in the house, where you spend most of your time so puppy can be exposed to normal household activities
- The pen includes a sleeping location, potty location, eating location, and play location

Suggested Materials:

- Crate (wire or plastic), large enough for puppy to sleep but not big enough to pace (many crates come with dividers, so they can grow with the puppy)
 - May want an additional crate for the bedroom and/or vehicle
- Exercise pen, tall enough so puppy cannot climb or jump (most pens are a standard 16' length)
- Potty area supplies (covered later)
- Bedding for crate (use bedding that is appropriate for age and breed, - Fluffy dogs may get too warm on plushy bedding, puppies may shred stuffed beds – I recommend fleece blankets)
- Water dish (not big enough for pup to play in or your floor may be soaked!)
- Food dishes and toys (covered later)

Food Enrichment and Feeding

- Eating out of a standard food bowl is boring for dogs
 - Adding food enrichment will help drain mental energy, teach puppies how to cope with frustration, teach problem solving skills, keep the puppies busy throughout the day, soothe worked up puppies, and act as a natural stress reliever
 - The more enrichment provided the better!



Suggested Materials

- Slo-Bowl food bowl (different patterns to add variety)
 - Ice cube trays and muffin tins can be used in addition to slow feeder bowls to add variety
- Rubber Kong (sized appropriately), and other rubber toys designed to stuff with food (also recommend: Everlasting Treat Ball)
 - Having multiple that are stuffed ahead of time will make it easier to give on the go
- Kong Wobbler, and other puzzle toys designed to dispense food
 - Plastic jars and bottles can be used in addition to puzzle toys to add variety (supervise puppies to avoid ingesting plastic)
- Chew bones will help with enrichment in between meals
 - Bully Sticks
 - Antlers and Horns
 - Raw Bones
 - Marrow Bones
 - Nylabones (non edible)
 - Himalayan Chews
 - "No hide" Chews
 - Hooves
- Proper nutrition is important physically for the puppy, but also mentally
 - Natural, Grain-Free, breed and age appropriate, dog kibble
 - Natural, Grain-Free, canned food for stuffing Kongs (I mix with kibble and raw food to create my Kong mix)
 - Freeze dried, frozen, and/or dehydrated Raw Food to supplement diet and use as treats
 - Dog-safe, "human food" or raw ingredients to add to diet and use as treats (meats, carrots, apples, string cheese, etc.)
 - Natural, Grain-Free, soft training treats (variety of flavors)

Prepping for Potty Training

- There should be two potty spots – one in Puppy Pen, one in desired future potty location (spot in backyard)
- Puppies commonly potty on absorbent areas like carpets or towels (remove access to these at first), and places that smell like urine or feces (use proper clean up methods and prevent accidents)

Suggested Materials:

- Treats for rewarding successful potty time
- In Puppy Pen
 - Potty pads or litter box with appropriate dog litter (should be large enough of an area for puppy to easily access and potty in, usually about 50% of the pen to start)
- Outside



- May want to train to ring bell or use other tool as alert
 - Out and About gear (covered later)
- Clean up products
 - Enzymatic stain and odor removers (these products break down the proteins in the urine and feces)
 - Alcohol-free products (the alcohol reduces efficacy of the enzymes)
 - Spray for carpet and hard floors
 - Laundry additive, and carpet cleaner additive, may be necessary
 - Rake and shovel/poop scoop for cleaning up outdoor messes
 - Disposal site for outdoor cleanup (additional garbage can?)
 - Potty bags for cleanup on walks or in public
 - Extra cleanup products for vehicle and/or additional residences

Tools for Out and About

- Puppies need to practice wearing equipment around the house before going out around distractions
- It is beneficial for puppies to explore and sniff in new environments, but use caution if the puppy is not fully vaccinated

Suggested Materials:

- 6 ft., light weight, leash for walking (recommend Halti Training Lead)
- 4-6 ft. leash or cable for tethering (may need multiple)
- 15-30 ft. long line (not retractable) for “sniffy walks”
- Size appropriate, buckle collar (will need to get new collars as puppy grows) to be worn all the time (may take off collar while crated)
- Martingale collar, if needed for breed (don’t use if other dogs may grab the collar)
- ID tag with phone number for collar (tag may also include dog name, address, “needs medication”, and/or additional info)
- Walking harness for leash walking and tethering (recommend Freedom Harness)
 - Use chest clip harness for walking
 - Use back clip harness for “sniffy walks” or tethering
- Treat pouch to use when walking or around the house (recommend Petsafe hinged treat pouch)
- Combination of treats and kibble (covered previously) for rewarding appropriate behavior
- Potty bags for cleanup on walks or in public
- Travel water/water bowl for trips and car rides
- Good chew bones for car rides or to practice settling in public (covered previously)
- Gate, crate, or tether for vehicle to keep dog secure while traveling

Playtime!

- Puppies need TONS of toys to keep their mouths and brains busy



- If the puppy is chewing or biting an incorrect item (furniture, remote, your arm, etc.) replace immediately with a toy
- Provide toys all the time, but rotate which toys are available to preserve novelty

Suggested Materials:

- Chew bones (covered previously)
- Rope toy and/or other tug toys used for tugging and “drop it” (used during supervised play with human)
- Many soft toys (supervise to prevent puppy from ingesting)
 - Some dogs will shred soft toys/ snuggle soft toys/ mount soft toys/ALL BEHAVIORS ARE ACCEPTABLE
 - Find toys with different textures, different noises (squeaker vs crinkle vs honk vs bell), different sizes and shapes
- Puzzle toys and Rubber food stuffed toys (covered previously)
- Balls and/or throwable toys for fetching and “drop it”
- Floating toys for water play
- Toys that can be soaked and frozen for soothing during teething
- “Flirt Pole” or something similar
 - This is essentially a giant cat toy – large pole with rope attached to toy, used for teaching puppy to chase and “drop it”
 - Can also attach rope with toy to a tree or other stable anchor point for dog to play tug with itself

Extra

- Find all of your pet professionals before you NEED them!
 - Veterinarian, Trainer, Groomer, Pet Sitter/Boarder, Dog Walker, etc
- Check out my additional materials and the Puppy Culture DVD for more info!