



Bringing Home a New Puppy

What will I need?

1. **Crate.** A wire or plastic crate is highly recommended prior to bringing home your new puppy. It should be big enough for your puppy to turn around and lay down in. If the crate is too large your puppy may be comfortable going to the bathroom in one area of the crate and sleeping in the other. The crate is where your puppy should stay while you are away or sleeping.
2. **Exercise Pen (highly recommended)** – an exercise pen (either wire or plastic) is similar to a play pen for babies. This will provide a safe play space for your dog, in a location that will be easy to clean up any accidents, provide safe toys, and easy to keep the space puppy proof for indirectly supervised periods of time.
3. **Collar** – remember your puppy is growing and will likely outgrow their first 1-2 collars (or more for large and giant breeds!). The collar should have a phone number to contact in case your puppy gets lost. This is also where their rabies tag and county dog license should go. There are great tag silencers available if the jingle is too loud!
4. **6' leash.** While a retractable leash is OK to use while your puppy is wearing a harness you will eventually need a 6' leash for training. We highly recommend biothane leashes from the Dig It store available online. They are very durable and easy to clean.
5. **Harness** (you should use a roman or H-back style harness to walk your puppy until loose leash training begins).
6. **Food and Water Dish**
7. **Appropriate Food** – dry kibble is the easiest form of dog food to feed. BRC feeds Gentle Giants (an all life stages dog food) to our dogs. Additional great brands are Canidae, Merrick, and Diamond Naturals all life stages and American Journey are good budget friendly foods. Canned dog food of the same brand and formula as your puppy's dry food is great to use to stuff a Kong toy, freeze, and then give to your puppy for fun. We also have some senior dogs on Honest Kitchen (with grains) which is a dehydrated dog food that is mixed with water prior to feeding.
8. **Appropriate Toys** – Please refer to our handout on toys and chews for dogs
9. **Establish a primary care veterinarian.** Check reviews, ask around, find a veterinarian that you are comfortable with. If you have mixed feelings about the first visit with your veterinarian we recommend scheduling your next well visit with a different veterinarian to find someone you are comfortable with.
10. **Know the nearest emergency animal hospital.** This is about LOCATION, in the event of an emergency knowing where to go based on which hospital is closest saves time! Save this information in your phone contacts.
11. **Find a trainer!** Starting early, even meeting with trainers prior to bringing your puppy home will help prevent unwanted behaviors and give you a resource if anything concerning happens with your puppy's behavior.
12. **Cleaning Supplies** – we use Nature's Miracle for general potty accidents, Resolve pet cleaner for carpets, and OdoBan as a disinfectant for our kennel floors.
13. **Poop Bags** – remember to always clean up after your puppy during walks!
14. **Grooming Supplies** – this includes a brush fit for your puppy's coat, nail trimmers (Dremels are great for sharp nail), ear cleaner, and tear free puppy shampoo.
15. **Training Treats** – we use Zuke's Pet Botanics, or dice up rolled dog food (Red Barn).