

New Puppy Checklist

The shopping list: every supply from the guide, by store aisle. Tick as you go.

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Priority: **BEFORE DAY 1** must-have **WEEK 1** get in week 1 **NICE TO HAVE**

Shop in the Puppy Readiness Pyramid order: Safety, then Comfort, then Connection.

Home Base: Crate & Containment

- ☐ Crate sized for your puppy, with a divider panel
BEFORE DAY 1
- ☐ Washable crate pad or a clean old towel
- ☐ A worn T-shirt with your scent, for the crate
- ☐ Playpen or X-pen **WEEK 1**
- ☐ Baby gates to block off rooms **NICE TO HAVE**

Feeding & Health

- ☐ Puppy food with an AAFCO statement ("formulated for growth" or "all life stages")
BEFORE DAY 1
- ☐ Ask the breeder or shelter which food the puppy eats now
- ☐ Stainless steel or ceramic bowls, non-slip base
- ☐ Enzyme cleaner **BEFORE DAY 1**
- ☐ Soft, small training treats **WEEK 1**
- ☐ Microchip: book it with the first vet visit

Training & Walking

- ☐ Collar + ID tag with your phone number
BEFORE DAY 1
- ☐ Standard 4–6 ft leash (not retractable) **WEEK 1**
- ☐ Front-clip harness **WEEK 1**
- ☐ Clicker
- ☐ Treat bag for your hip
- ☐ Chew toy
- ☐ Squeak toy
- ☐ Throw / tug toy

Grooming & Cleanup

- ☐ Potty pads **BEFORE DAY 1**
- ☐ Puppy shampoo **WEEK 1**
- ☐ Brush for the coat: slicker (medium/long coats) or rubber curry (short coats)
- ☐ Dog toothpaste (never human toothpaste)
- ☐ Finger brush or soft puppy toothbrush

The 5 Day-1 must-haves

- ☐ Crate
- ☐ Enzyme cleaner
- ☐ Puppy food
- ☐ Collar + ID tag
- ☐ Potty pads

Home Prep & First Week

Get the house ready before pickup day, then track the first week.

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Puppy-proof before Day 1

- ☐ Secure or hide electrical cords and chargers
- ☐ Move toxic plants; lock away chemicals and antifreeze
- ☐ Clear floor-level chew targets: shoes, toys, remotes
- ☐ Gate the puppy into 1–2 rooms
- ☐ Set up the safe base: crate in place, pad inside, water bowl ready

First Week Milestones

- ☐ First potty break completed
- ☐ First vet visit booked
- ☐ Crate introduction completed
- ☐ Enzyme cleaner purchased
- ☐ Vaccination records received from breeder/shelter
- ☐ Ask your vet about vaccines and parasite prevention

Crate sizing reference

Breed size	Adult weight	Crate
Small	Up to 30 lbs	24-inch
Medium	30–70 lbs	36-inch
Large	70–90 lbs	42-inch
Extra large	90+ lbs	48-inch

Room to stand, turn around and lie down, nothing more. A divider panel lets the crate grow with the puppy.

First-week daily schedule

Time	Activity
7:00 AM	Wake up, potty break, breakfast
7:30 AM	Play/training (15 min), crate rest
10:00 AM	Potty break, short play, crate rest
12:00 PM	Potty break, lunch, play, crate rest
3:00 PM	Potty break, play/socialization
6:00 PM	Potty break, dinner, play
9:00 PM	Final potty break, bedtime in crate

My puppy's notes

Puppy's name

Pickup date

Food brand (same as breeder/shelter)

Breeder / shelter contact

Vet clinic name

Vet phone

First vet visit date

Microchip number