



NEW DOG ESSENTIALS CHECKLIST


Do things at your own pace.
Life's not a race.

aceofheartrescue.com



Preparing for a Happy Homecoming

Welcoming a new dog into your life is an exciting and rewarding journey — but preparation is key to making the transition smooth, safe, and stress-free for both you and your new best friend.



HERE'S YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE ESSENTIALS YOU'LL NEED:

✓ COLLAR WITH ID TAG

Ensure your dog wears a properly fitted collar with a secure ID tag listing your name, phone number, and address. It's the quickest way to be reunited if your new pup ever gets lost. Microchipping is also highly recommended for extra safety.

All models are proud rescues.



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✓ HARNESS AND LEASH

A secure harness offers better control and comfort during walks, especially for dogs who pull or are nervous in new environments. Choose a sturdy, well-fitted harness and a standard 4–6 foot leash to keep your dog close and safe.

✓ CRATE (SIZED COMFORTABLY FOR YOUR DOG)

Crates provide a safe, quiet space where dogs can relax and feel secure. Look for one large enough for your dog to stand, turn around, and lie down comfortably. Crate training also supports potty training and eases anxiety.



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✓ COZY BED OR BLANKETS

Every dog deserves a soft, comfortable place to rest. Choose a washable bed or provide cozy blankets in a quiet spot. Some dogs feel safer with beds that have raised sides for a nest-like feeling.

✓ FOOD AND WATER BOWLS

Sturdy, non-tip stainless steel or ceramic bowls are ideal for both food and water. Fresh water should always be available. (Avoid plastic bowls, which can harbor bacteria and cause allergies in some dogs.)

✓ TRAINING TREATS

Positive reinforcement is the key to building trust and teaching good behaviors. Keep healthy, bite-sized treats handy for rewarding potty training, crate time, learning commands, and good manners.

✓ TOYS FOR CHEWING AND PLAY

Dogs need mental stimulation and healthy outlets for natural behaviors like chewing and playing. Offer a variety of safe, durable toys — including puzzle toys for brain work and chew toys for teething relief.



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✓ **GROOMING
SUPPLIES
(BRUSH, DOG
SHAMPOO,
NAIL
CLIPPERS)**

Regular grooming keeps your dog comfortable and healthy. A basic kit includes a gentle dog brush (appropriate for your dog's coat type), mild dog shampoo, and nail clippers or a grinder.

Tip: Start grooming routines early to help your dog feel relaxed during brushing and nail trims.



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✓ WASTE BAGS FOR CLEANUP

Always clean up
after your dog to
keep public spaces
clean and protect
the environment.

Carry
biodegradable
waste bags on
every walk.

✓ VET APPOINTMENT SCHEDULED

Even if your dog
has been vetted by
the rescue,
scheduling a
"welcome visit"
with your chosen
veterinarian is
important. It helps
you establish care,
set up a
vaccination and
wellness schedule,
and address any
early concerns.



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✓ PET INSURANCE (OPTIONAL, BUT HIGHLY RECOMMENDED)

Unexpected vet bills can be expensive. Pet insurance offers peace of mind and helps you prioritize your dog's care without financial stress. Research plans that fit your budget and your dog's needs.

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Preparing thoughtfully isn't just
about supplies — it's about setting
the stage for love, trust, and
lifelong companionship.

A little planning today builds the
foundation for a happy tomorrow.



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