

# Recommended Supplies & Basics

A simple and clear list to get you started. Getting ready to bring a new dog home doesn't need to be complex.

## **Harness** [Freedom Harness Link](#)

Video for Fit:

[How to Fit a Freedom Harness](#)

## **Martingale Collar** [No Slip Collar](#)

## **Leash** [Nylon Leash](#)

Leash Pro Tips:

- We recommend 2 leashes to ensure safety.
- Your harness should have 2 safety clips. One on the front chest, and one on their back.
- Use 1 leash for each loop (2 leashes total). Best practice for safety is to always have 2 separate points of connection on your dog. It gives you double the safety measures and allows for better handling of your new dog while walking.

## **Crate** [Standard Wire Crate](#)

Crate Pro Tips:

- Instead of spending a ton of money on a brand new dog bed that may or may not get completely destroyed, opt to use old blankets, comforters, and things that are soft and comfortable, but that you don't care if they get destroyed.
- If your dog is loud or stressed in the crate, put a blanket or sheet over it to minimize excitement. Make the crate a "safe space".
- You can use background noise like a TV, white noise machine, or music to help calm the dog.

## **Food** (Ask the foster parent what they're currently using to transition)

Need Recommendations for affordable but Quality food?

- Diamond Naturals [Lamb & Rice](#)
- Diamond Naturals for Allergies [Grain Free](#)
- American Journey [Active Dogs](#)
- Diamond Naturals [All Stages - Coat & Skin](#)

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## **Heartworm Prevention** [Interceptor Plus](#)

### *Prevention Pro Tips:*

- You need to get your dog to the vet you plan to use in the future, to establish an account and get a weight check. Do this within 3-4 weeks of adopting your new dog. Heartworm prevention is a prescription, you need to get the script approved by your vet, in order to purchase online. This is what your first visit should be about.
- The only way to prevent heartworm, is prevention. Heartworm comes from mosquitos and mosquitos are everywhere. Get prevention. Keep your dog tested yearly by your vet, and give them year round prevention. Heartworms are deadly without treatment. Treatment is extremely expensive, painful, and takes months. Treatment alone, can cause death. Preventing heartworm is far easier than what happens if your dog is positive for heartworm.
- There are other heartworm prevention brands available. The link above is for Interceptor Plus which prevents 5 types of worms, vs the other brands that prevent 3 or less.

## **Flea & Tick Prevention** [NexGard](#)

- Make sure you're purchasing the correct version, based on the weight of your dog.

## **Food & Water Bowls** [Stainless and No Slip Bowls](#)

## **Treats** [Training Treats](#)

### *Treat Pro Tips:*

- Using small treats for training allow you to treat and praise your dog a lot, while not adding a ton of extra calories to their diet. The small, soft treats are easily and quickly consumed, without leaving a huge mess.
- When training your dog, the rate of reinforcement matters (how quickly you give them the treat after they've provided a desirable behavior). The quicker and more often your dog gets treats, the more often they will repeat that same behavior they just received praise for.
- If your dog does not seem motivated by a particular treat, try something else. Finding their "high value" item is very important to ensure positive interactions with new dogs, and training your dog in the future.
- Use treats for basically anything and everything you can use them for, when you first bring your new dog home. All interactions should be kept positive. This is always important but even more important as you're getting to know each other. Potty training, crate training, or just doing the same thing they're already trained to do, but in a new place, with new people, USE TREATS.

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## Toys!!!

*Toy Pro Tips:*

- Buy toys that are appropriate for the breed you're adopting. If you think you'll buy 20 stuffed animals for your new pit bull and they'll have so much fun with all their stuffed toys, that fun will last minutes. An hour if you're lucky. They will destroy that stuffed animal and there will be stuffing all over your home. A stuffed animal massacre.
- Toys can be used to relieve anxiety, use as a distraction, and can also be used to praise, just like treats.
- Certain toys can be used specifically for the crate. A Kong with cream cheese or peanut butter spread inside, and then frozen, is a longer lasting toy and can keep dogs from getting bored.

**Kong** (buy based on your dog - they also have super chewer and senior) [Classic Kong](#)

**Benebones** (come in all different sizes and flavors) [Bacon Bone](#)

**Stuffing Free Toys and Bully Sticks** [Bundle Package](#)

**Chewguard Plush Toys** [Long Lasting Plush Toy](#)

**Puzzles** [Brain Exercise](#)

There are plenty more items you could purchase for your new dog, but you don't need to go overboard immediately. Start with basics, and build upon them.

Set your dog, your home, and your family up, for success. We want you and our dogs to be successful. That's the reason we do what we do.

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