New Puppy Guide



THE GOLDEN CHOICE

KL Golden Retrievers

What does my puppy already have?

- [ ] Preventative Deworming (Fenbendozole)
- [ ] Vaccinations given at 6 weeks (Distemper, Adenovirus Type 2, Parvo, & Parainfluenza)
- [ ] Microchip + Prepaid Microchip Registration (AKC Reunite)
- [ ] AKC registration papers (limited registration/no breeding)
- [ ] 30 days of AKC health insurance and Trupanion Insurance
- [ ] Free veterinary office visit through the AKC Veterinary Network Certificate Program
- [ ] A head to tail examination performed by our vet with a written report/record book
- [ ] 1-2 weeks of crate training
- [ ] Baby blanket with mom/littermate scent



Supplies Checklist

You may not need all of these but here is the **ultimate checklist for getting a new puppy.**

ESSENTIALS

- [ ] **Leash**
- [ ] Collar
- [ ] ID tags
- [ ] **Harness**
- [ ] Poop bags
- [ ] **Soft toys**
- [ ] Chew toys
- [ ] **Crate**
- [ ] Dog bed
- [ ] Blankets
- [ ] Towels
- [ ] **Canned Pumpkin**
- [ ] **Food & water bowls**
- [ ] **Puppy food**
- [ ] **Probiotic Supplement + Psyllium based fiber supplement**

GOOD TO HAVE

- [ ] Brush
- [ ] Nail Trimmer
- [ ] Gates
- [ ] Play pen
- [ ] Cleaning supplies
- [ ] Dog shampoo
- [ ] **Spy camera**
- [ ] Car seat protector
- [ ] Toothbrush & Toothpaste
- [ ] **Pet insurance**
- [ ] Bitter spray for furniture
- [ ] Travel water bottle
- [ ] Puppy Record Book
- [ ] Doggy door bell hanger
- [ ] Dog Treats (wait several months to feed to avoid GI Upset)



Recommended Products











Slow feeder







Roll over image to zoom in

MidWest Homes for Pets Large Dog Crate | MidWest Life Stages Folding Metal Dog Crate | Divider Panel, Floor Protecting Feet, Leak-Proof Dog Pan | 42L x 28W x 31H Inches, Large Dog

Visit the MidWest Homes for Pets Store

4.7 ★★★★½ 187,939 ratings

#1 Best Seller in Basic Dog Crates

-6% $89.99

List Price: $95.99

FREE Returns

Thank you for being a Prime member. Get $200 off: Pay $0.00 $89.99 upon approval for Prime Visa.

May be available at a lower price from other sellers, potentially without free Prime shipping.



EZwhelp Washable Pee Pads for Dogs - Reusable Whelping Pads, Waterproof Rug Pad, Doggie Pee Pads for Indoors & Outdoor Dog Training Pee for Whelping Box for Dogs, Playpen, Cage Floor - 2 Pack, 24x48

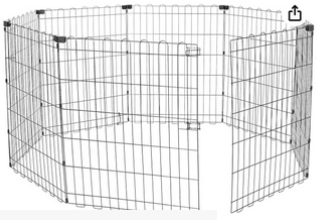
Visit the EZwhelp Store

4.6 ★★★★½ 212 ratings

Amazon's Choice Overall Pick

$28.75

prime



Amazon Basics Foldable Metal Exercise Pet Play Pen for Dogs, Fence Pen, No Door, Small, 60 x 60 x 30 Inches, black

Visit the Amazon Basics Store

4.6 ★★★★½ 66,553 ratings

Amazon's Choice Overall Pick

1K+ bought in past month

$39.98

FREE Returns













Pet Camera

While Amazon is a convenient choice for various items, we recommend refraining from purchasing pet food and treats on the platform due to potential concerns about the quality of these products. Chewy, Petco, Petsmart, Pet Supplies Plus are great alternatives.

Bringing Your Puppy Home

Congratulations on your new puppy! What an exciting time.
It can be exhausting and sometimes scary, but with this
guide, you will be prepared for what's to come.

- Set aside dedicated time for training and bonding with your new puppy. Ensure a tidy home by stowing away chewable items and blocking off areas you prefer the puppy to avoid. Establish their designated space and place pee pads in selected areas.

- Equip yourself with a toy, blanket, towel, leash, harness, and poop bags for a seamless transition during the car ride home. Ensure their security in a crate or on someone's lap in the back seat.

- Take your puppy for a walk around the exterior of your home, designate a potty spot, and let them explore indoors after bringing them in. Introduce family members one at a time and familiarize them with their sleeping place, such as a crate. Remember to take your puppy outside frequently for potty breaks.

- When bringing a puppy home initially, create a calm and quiet environment to prevent overwhelm. Consider limiting their access to a confined area for the initial days. If you have other pets, supervise introductions, keeping them brief and positive. This approach also applies to introducing your puppy to new people. While socialization is important, keeping introductions short and calm helps them adjust to their new surroundings.

Puppy Socialization

Initiate puppy socialization at the earliest opportunity. Experts recommend dedicating time between seven weeks and four months to deliberately focus on socialization. Gradually and appropriately introduce your puppy to a diverse range of settings and scenarios within a secure environment during this crucial period. The socialization experiences during this timeframe play a pivotal role in shaping your puppy's future reactions to various social settings.

Restrict the socialization process until your dog has completed their vaccinations. Subsequently, enrolling them in puppy classes, conducted in a secure and comforting environment, can further enhance their exposure to different stimuli. Once your dog has completed a full series of puppy vaccinations, consider exploring parks and dog-friendly stores as an excellent means to acquaint them with new sights, sounds, smells, different people, and other dogs.

At the onset of the socialization period, especially considering your dog's age, be mindful that your puppy might initially exhibit skepticism. Most puppies undergo a "fear period," typically occurring between 8 to 11 weeks of age, during which they may display fear towards certain items, people (even those they were previously comfortable with), and situations. Should your puppy encounter a frightening experience during this period, those memories may persist. Therefore, closely observe your puppy's body language during socialization efforts to discern whether they are relaxed and engaged or exhibiting signs of timidity, shyness, or fear.



Puppy Socialization

How to Socialize a Puppy Before Vaccinations:

Vaccinations play a crucial role in your puppy's first year, not only safeguarding them from potentially harmful illnesses but also contributing to the well-being of other animals in their vicinity. Your puppy will follow a vaccination schedule throughout their first year and beyond. It is imperative not to expose your puppy to unknown dogs before they have received at least their initial round of basic vaccinations.

While coordinating puppy socialization playdates around your dog's vaccination schedule may pose challenges, you can initiate the development of proper socialization skills through puppy playtimes. These interactive play settings offer a safe and hygienic environment for puppies to commence socializing with other dogs shortly after receiving their first vaccination. They serve as an excellent means to introduce your puppy to other dogs without the risk of them encountering unvaccinated canines.



Vaccination Schedule

Please note, this is just a guide, please go with the recommendations from your vet.

CORE VACCINES: Recommended for all dogs irrespective of lifestyle, unless there is a specific medical reason not to vaccinate.			
ANTIGEN	**INITIAL VACCINATION**		**REVACCINATION**
	Dogs ≤16 Weeks of Age	**Dogs >16 Weeks of Age**	
Distemper **Adenovirus** **Parvovirus** **+/- Parainfluenza**	At least 3 doses of a combination vaccine between 6 and 16 weeks, 2-4 weeks apart.	2 doses of a combination vaccine, 2-4 weeks apart.	• A single dose of a combination vaccine within 1 year following the last dose in the initial vaccination series. • Administer subsequent boosters at intervals of 3 years.
Leptospira (killed) 4-serovar	Two doses, 2-4 weeks apart, starting at 12 weeks of age.	Two doses, 2-4 weeks apart, regardless of dog's age.	• A single dose within 1 year following the last dose in the initial vaccination series. • Administer subsequent boosters annually.
Rabies	As required by law.		

- Rabies vaccination at 3-6 months of age with a booster 12 months later, then a booster every 1-3 years.
- Bordetella, Parainfluenza, and Canine Influenza recommended for social dogs (doggy daycare, dog parks, boarding, grooming, dog shows).
- Lyme or Leptospirosis may be recommended by your veterinarian if you live in or travel with your dog to an area where these are a threat.

Balancing Safety and Socialization

Socialization plays a crucial role in your puppy's development. Introducing your puppy to a variety of new people, objects, sounds, smells, and other animals helps build their confidence and reduces anxiety later in life. However, until your puppy has completed their full vaccination schedule (usually around 16 weeks of age), you must be mindful of exposure risks.

Spaying and Neutering?

From Frontiers in Veterinary Medicine: The suggested guideline for males, considering the heightened risks of joint disorders and cancers, recommends delaying neutering until beyond a year of age. The suggested guideline for females, recommends spaying at one year and maintaining vigilance for potential cancers. Be sure to consult with your veterinarian.

Pet Insurance

Pet Insurance: Peace of Mind for You and Your Pup

We strongly encourage all new puppy owners to consider investing in pet insurance. While no one wants to think about emergencies or unexpected health issues, having coverage can provide peace of mind and help you focus on your pup's well-being without the added stress of unexpected expenses.

To help you get started, you will have **30 days of coverage** through AKC and Trupanion, but please note that you must activate these plans when you take your puppy home to take advantage of the coverage.

Pet insurance can help cover costs related to accidents, illnesses, and even routine care, depending on the plan you choose. Taking the time to research policies now can save you from financial strain later and ensure your furry friend receives the best care possible.

Your puppy's health and happiness are our top priority, and pet insurance can be a valuable tool in keeping them safe and sound.

FIGO PET INSURANCE

trupanion™ Medical insurance for the life of your pet.

Lemonade

AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB AKC FOUNDED 1884 PET INSURANCE

healthypaws® PET INSURANCE

Toxic Plants

These are some common household plants that are toxic to dogs. There are more, so be sure to look up the plants in your house and surrounding areas. Many essential oils, such as tea tree oil, eucalyptus oil, citrus, peppermint, and pine, are also toxic to dogs.



TULIPS



DAFFODILS



FOXGLOVE



IVY



LILLIES



CYCLAMEN



SWEET PEA



CHRYSANTHEMUM



RHODODENDRON



BUTTERCUP



TOMATO PLANTS



YEW



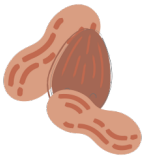
Foods to Avoid



CHOCOLATE



AVOCADO



SOME NUTS



GRAPES



ALCOHOL



ONIONS



GARLIC



CHERRIES



CAFFEINE



MUSHROOMS



XYLITOL
(ARTIFICIAL SWEETNER)



RAISINS



Basic Manners

All dogs should exhibit good manners, and it's crucial to teach your puppy what behaviors to avoid.

- Nipping and Biting
- Jumping up on people
- Running out the door before you
- Jumping out of the car before your command
- Aggressively taking food
- Claiming the sofa or furniture as theirs
- Too much excitement around other dogs and animals
- Licking/Kissing too much
- Constantly in your space

Basic manners are essential not only for your dog's safety but also to prevent situations like running onto the road or tripping over them in the kitchen. While certain behaviors may seem cute in puppies, they can become challenging when the dog weighs 70+ pounds. It's crucial not to reward bad behavior. Envision having a well-behaved dog that you can take anywhere – be it the dog park, friend's houses, or dog sitters – without any issues. You will derive greater enjoyment from your dog when they are trained and exhibit good manners, as will others. Most importantly, you will be providing your dog with the best life possible when they are calm and happy.



Basic Training

Your pup can learn to shake a paw as early as 8 weeks old. You'll be surprised at how much they can grasp from a very young age through simple treat training and positive reinforcements.

Basic Commands:

- Sit
- Stay
- Down
- No
- Heel
- Come
- Leave it
- Drop it
- Look at me



There are numerous training methods and a plethora of resources available on the internet, as well as apps that can assist you with training. If you find it challenging to teach your dog simple commands, it is advisable to consult with a professional trainer.

Invest in Training

If you are new to training or find it challenging to manage on your own, there are many trainers available to assist. Be cautious in selecting a method that suits both you and your dog. It might be necessary to explore a few different methods, but investing time and money in training is worthwhile. This consideration is important before bringing a puppy into your home.

Guide to Dog Trainers

Finding the perfect trainer for your pup can feel overwhelming, but don't worry — we've got you covered! Here are three fantastic options that we have used that offer a variety of training techniques to meet different canine needs. We've listed them from highest to lowest pricing. Each program delivers great results, but there are differences in the level of service and outcomes — as the saying goes, you get what you pay for! Also, these are just options we have used-feel free to contact other trainers!

1. Lonestar Dog Trainer
Location: Texas, however they can arrange for training in other states
Specialties: Obedience training, behavioral modification, and advanced skill development
Program Details:

- Offers a comprehensive Resident Board & Train program perfect for busy pet owners or those seeking personalized, hands-on training for their dog.
- The program typically lasts 21-30 days, but the focus is always on achieving training goals, not just fulfilling a set number of days.
- Your dog will gain valuable real-world experience through activities like car rides, store visits, and restaurant outings to build confidence and reinforce good manners.
- Dogs stay in a home environment with the trainer's family and other dogs, ensuring they receive plenty of attention and care around the clock.
- Training covers:
  - Basic Manners: On/Off furniture (if desired), quiet on command, waiting at doors, eliminating rough play, housebreaking, crate training, and reducing destructive behaviors.
  - Basic Obedience: Sit, down, place command, walk on and off leash, recall, and leadership modification.
  - Behavior Correction: Addressing issues like chasing, guarding, jumping, digging, anxiety, aggression, leash reactivity, and more.
- You'll receive regular updates via Facebook and video clips, so you can track your dog's progress.
- Aftercare support includes follow-up lessons and ongoing guidance to help you maintain your dog's new skills and positive behavior for years to come.



Guide to Dog Trainers

2. Mountain State K9 Academy
Location: Greeley, Colorado
Specialties: Police K9 training, protection dogs, and behavior modification
Program Details:

- Emphasizes Timing, ensuring rewards and corrections are delivered within 1.3 seconds to reinforce desired behaviors effectively.
- Focuses on Motivation, understanding that each dog responds differently to toys, food, praise, or correction. Trainers tailor their approach based on what drives the individual dog.
- Utilizes a combination of tools, recommending prong collars and e-collars as effective and safe correction methods based on scientific research.
- Prioritizes Consistency, ensuring commands and expectations are clear, preventing confusion and anxiety in dogs.
- Trainers balance positive reinforcement with correction to produce well-adjusted, confident dogs.
- **Offers flexible training durations ranging from 2 to 6 weeks** to accommodate different needs and learning paces.
- **KL Golden Retrievers puppies receive a discount on training and services**

3. Colorado Prison Trained K9 Program
Location: Commerce City, Colorado
Specialties: Rehabilitation programs, basic obedience, and socialization
Program Details:

- Offers a **4-week program** designed to focus on basic obedience and consistent behavior results.
- Training includes essential manners such as heeling politely on leash, sit, sit-stay, down, down-stay, recall, greeting people calmly, and crate/house training.
- Depending on the dog's age and capacity for learning, trainers can introduce tricks once the basics are solid.
- Confidence-building exercises using agility equipment are also available at some facilities.
- Great option if you have a long trip or busy month, but be sure to sign up early (at least 6-8 months ahead of time).

First Aid Kit Checklist

Be prepared for an emergency; it could save your pet's life. There are even online pet first aid courses available to help you learn what to do in emergency situations, such as how to break up a dog fight.

Please note: Always consult a vet first when it is possible.

- [ ] Muzzle
- [ ] Gauze & Bandages
- [ ] Scissors - blunt end
- [ ] Cotton wool
- [ ] Tweezers
- [ ] Saline solution
- [ ] Rubbing alcohol
- [ ] Self-adhesive tape
- [ ] Ice pack
- [ ] Disposable gloves
- [ ] Antibacterial soap
- [ ] Antibiotic ointment
- [ ] Oral syringe
- [ ] Towels & blankets
- [ ] Flashlight
- [ ] Probiotics and Pumpkin for diarrhea
- [ ] Thermometer



Vet & Services

VET

Name:

Doctor:

Address:

Phone No:

Notes:

EMERGENCY VET

Name:

Doctor:

Address:

Phone No:

Notes:

DOG-SITTER

Name:

Address:

Phone No:

Notes:

GROOMER

Name:

Address:

Phone No:

Notes:



Doggy Contacts

Name:

Address:

Phone No:

Notes:

Name:

Address:

Phone No:

Notes:

Name:

Address:

Phone No:

Notes:

Name:

Address:

Phone No:

Notes:

Name:

Address:

Phone No:

Notes:

Name:

Address:

Phone No:

Notes:



Take-Home Reminders

- **Probiotics:** Feed **ProViable or Fortiflora** per package instructions when your puppy goes home.
- **Insurance:** Activate **AKC Pet Insurance** on the day puppies turn 8 weeks; ensure your vet accepts it or find a participating provider. **Activate Trupanion Insurance** the day your pup goes home.
- **Certificates:** Print your free pet wellness exam certificate.
- **Microchip:** Register the pre-paid microchip with AKC Reunite.
- **Vaccines:** Schedule a booster 2-4 weeks after the initial dose.
- **Training:** Contact Mountain State K9 Academy (970-353-0778) for a free consultation. Mention KL Golden Retrievers for tailored advice. If choosing another trainer, ensure they're certified and experienced.
- **Diet:** Stick to **Purina ProPlan Large Breed Puppy** Kibble for training. Avoid new treats for the first few months. Introduce new treats slowly, one at a time.
- **Diarrhea Prevention:** Start **probiotics** and add **1-2 tbsp of 100% Pure Pumpkin** and **1/2 teaspoon of fiber supplement** per feeding at the first sign of loose stool. See your vet if symptoms persist beyond 72 hours.
- **Socialization:** Avoid high-traffic dog areas (e.g., Petco, dog parks) until fully vaccinated.
- **Crate Training:** Continue practice and review shared FB group videos. Contact us or a trainer with questions.

