

BRINGING HOME PUPPY CHECKLIST

There's a lot more that goes into bringing a new puppy home than just having a bed and food bowl ready. Make sure you're fully prepared for the wonderful adventure of bringing home puppy by gathering all of the necessities prior to the big day. This checklist will help you and your puppy on the road to success for a long and happy life together.

Have fun and congratulations on your new addition!

Health/Nutrition and Cleansers:

- Veterinarian- your puppy should see a veterinarian as soon as you get him to ensure he is healthy and his vaccinations are starting at the appropriate time
- Grooming tools: appropriate brush, nail clippers, puppy-safe shampoo
- Food that either your breeder or veterinarian recommends for your puppy
- Water Bowl and Food Bowl (and Food Puzzles for mental stimulation when feeding-see Training and Toys)
- Enzymatic Cleanser such as: Nature's Miracle. For house training accidents you **MUST** remove any trace evidence of urine or feces (bleach, cleaners, or vinegar will not do this). Use an enzymatic cleanser when cleaning up accidents to ensure your puppy isn't drawn back to that spot to eliminate in the future.

Confinement and Safety:

- Appropriately sized crate for your puppy. Your puppy should be able to stand up and fully turn around in the crate comfortably but not walk around a large space. If you purchase a large crate for your puppy make sure it comes with a divider that you can adjust to the size of your puppy as he grows. A crate that is too large will invite your puppy to eliminate in the crate away from his bed which will make housetraining more difficult.
- Bedding for your crate
- Baby Gates to control where your puppy can and cannot go on his own
- X-Pen (provides a gated area safe for your puppy when you are unable to watch him- should be placed in a moderately high traffic area like your kitchen)
- Pee Pads for your X-Pen
- Carabineers- for you to attach his leash to your belt loop on your pants- your puppy should **ALWAYS** be with you if he is not in a crate or X-Pen
- 6 foot leash and appropriately sized harness for walking your puppy
- Nylon collar with identification (I like the collars that your puppy's name can be printed on

or a tag can be mounted onto so there isn't a tag hanging from the collar)

Training and Toys

- Puppy Training Books:
Puppy Primer by: Patricia McConnell and
The Perfect Puppy in 7 Days by: Dr. Sophia Yin
- Enrollment in a Puppy Kindergarten class. Don't wait to do this! Get your puppy into a class right away! These classes should be with puppies of the same age as yours and should follow force free training methods.
- House Training Plan/Schedule to set your puppy up for success with house training
- Treats for training! Training can begin the moment your puppy comes home! Make sure you have plenty of yummy and nutritious treats on hand to reward your puppy during those "trainable" moments! Also, use your puppy's daily food as rewards as well!
- The SoundProof Puppy App (found under the Resources tab on www.speakingdogtrainingco.com site) to begin socializing your puppy to the many sounds around them that they will come in contact with as they grow. (The SDTC Puppy Kindergarten class uses this App in their socialization curriculum)
- Chew deterring spray or paste such as: Bitter Apple Spray. This can be used to deter your puppy from chewing on inappropriate objects. Make sure to redirect your puppy to appropriate chew items if they do find something inappropriate to chew
- Puppy Toys: Chew toys, food puzzles/mental stimulation toys, squeaky toys, balls, tug toys, etc. None of the toys should resemble household items that a puppy should **NOT** play with (i.e. shoes, newspapers, children's toys, socks)

