

# New Puppy Checklist

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## Puppy Food

- The brand of puppy food that the puppies will have been weaned to is Royal Canin – Puppy Large Breed, which can be purchased at any pet store such as Petco, PetsMart or Amazon. You can also choose to order it directly through us, but you will need to plan ahead as we typically only make one order a month. We suggest that you start off with 2 bags of this food if you plan to keep your new puppy on this brand, if not, then I would plan to have 1 bag to bridge the gap until you switch to your food preference (see below for tips on switching foods).
- Royal Canin does make several different types of food (even a Golden Retriever specific formula), but the one that we are feeding is the Royal Canin Size Health Nutrition Large Puppy Dry Dog Food. A large breed puppy has big nutritional needs. That's because large dogs have a longer growth period than smaller ones. As they grow, they can multiply their birth weight by an impressive 70 to 90 times! Then later, as adults, large breed dogs are more at risk of developing bone and joint issues. That's why they need optimum nutrition early on, to develop strong muscles and bones that will support their large bodies throughout their lives. Royal Canin Large Puppy dry dog food is wholesome puppy food that gives a big pup a healthy start in life. This complete and balanced diet helps build strong bones and joints, while an exclusive blend of antioxidants and minerals supports their developing immune systems and keeps their bodies growing strong. Its exclusive kibble design encourages a pup to chew their food thoroughly. And highly digestible proteins and prebiotics help a dog break down and absorb nutrients for healthy digestion and optimal stools. Royal Canin Large Puppy dry dog food is tailor-made for large breed puppies with an expected adult weight of 56-100 lbs. You may be asking why we don't feed the Golden Retriever Puppy specific formula? Well, we did for a while and found that the pups did just a little better on this large breed puppy formula with a higher calorie content. Not saying that the GR formula was in any way bad or anything of the sort, we just preferred the overall outcome of the puppies on this other formula ... and as an added bonus it's a tad bit easier on the wallet too than the GR formula.
- If you plan to switch your puppy to a different food, that's totally fine. All I ask is that it's a high-quality kibble that is specifically formulated for large breed puppies and is NOT grain free. If you are not familiar with the effects that grain free diets have on dogs, please click on this link to our website that talks a little about it: <https://birchwoodgoldens.com/puppy-nutrition>. I would also not suggest making the switch immediately. The puppy will be under quite a bit of stress leaving his/her littermates and the environment that they have known their entire 8-week life, so the last thing I think any of you want to do is upset their systems with a food switch. So even if your plan is to switch, I would suggest at least doing one bag of this RC food and then make the switch as you start to near the last ¼ of the bag. You want to make the switch a new food slowly as to not upset their GI tract, typical ratio is to do the switch over a 7–10-day period and start off with a 90/10 ratio of old to new and follow that formula until you are at 100% new food around day 10. Now keep in mind, if the puppy develops soft or runny stool, back off the new a little and go back to feeding more of the RC until the issue has resolved itself. You'll be amazed at how interesting investigating puppy poop will become to you! Strive for good healthy poops!

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All of the below, we have suggested/recommended products on our website that we have used (to help get you started) if you're overwhelmed at the massive amount of options out there. Click on this link to go directly to our website for a list of these recommend products: <https://birchwoodgoldens.com/products-we-recommend>. You can click on each product on our website to be taken directly to Amazon to make your purchase.

Puppy Treats

- Small size treats to reinforce a puppy's good behavior during training

Food & Water Bowls

- We recommend stainless steel, as they are easier to keep clean and sanitary and the puppies cannot chew them up. Bowls should be non-tippable and you might want to put a mat down to protect your floor from spills.

Toys

- Soft chew toys, chew ropes, tennis balls, squeaker toys, etc.
- Make sure to buy toys large enough to where the puppy cannot swallow it and choke or toys that have loose small pieces that can be chewed off and swallowed.

Baby Gates & Wire Pens

- Great to have on hand to keep the puppy confined to certain areas of the house so you don't find surprise accidents later on behind that plant in the dining room!

Dog Bed

- A nice soft snuggly one will be good for a puppy to have his/her "place" to feel safe and snuggle in for a nice long nap. They tend to like the types that have bolsters or lips that they can lay up against. Walmart has some pretty good ones that won't break the bank if it gets chewed or accidentally pee'd on.

Dog Crate

- For training and travel.
- We recommend for home and training, the black wire kennel crates that you can either pick up at Petco, PetsMart or Amazon. They are sturdy, not made of plastic (that can be chewed) and most come with a divider panel that is an invaluable tool for helping with the potty-training process. The crate should have bedding, such as a dog crate pad.
- If you plan on traveling in the car alone with your puppy, you can use this crate also for travel, as it is collapsible, but it's not that easy to carry or maneuver. For travel purposes especially for younger puppies going to and from the vets office for the first few months, etc. we recommend the plastic carriers with the wire gates and handles on top.

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## Collar & Leash

- Buy an adjustable collar so you can adjust it as the puppy grows
- We are an authorized dealer of Lupine Collars and Leads, if you would like to purchase your collar and leash from us, we have several of them in stock, you take a look at them when you come to meet your puppy at 6 weeks old.
- We highly recommend this brand of collars and leads, not only because of the quality construction and great designs/graphics, but also because they come with a lifetime guarantee – even if chewed! I personally have replaced several chewed collars through Lupine and have never paid an additional dime, except for my original purchase.
- 15' Training lead. This is a great tool to help with those late night potty trips where you don't want to be chasing a 12 week old puppy through the snow in the middle of the night.

## ID Tag

- We are an authorized dealer of Red Dingo Pet Tags, if you would like to purchase your pet ID tag from us, please visit [www.reddingo.com](http://www.reddingo.com) and take a look at their products. We can order them for you and have them shipped directly to your house. When you come to visit us, pick up an order form to fill out.
- We highly recommend these particular pet ID tags, especially for Alaska's harsh cold winter temps. These tags are very heavy duty stainless steel tags with great enamel designs that you can choose from for the front and then your info is engraved in the back. They are much higher quality than the tags you can get at local pet stores, and much better than the cheapo plastic tags that just break in half as soon as the temperature drops below 10 degrees.

## Puppy Shampoo

## Grooming Brush

- Your puppy will shed out his puppy coat as his adult coat starts to grow in. A slicker wire type of brush is a valuable grooming tool for Golden Retrievers. They do make several types of slicker brushes, find one that is suitable **especially for puppies** (soft, gentle, etc.) as to not be too rough on the puppies and they then learn to not like brushing because it's painful.

## Carpet Stain Remover *(for those unwanted, but accidental mistakes!)*

## Additional Towel or Small Blanket

- Bring an additional towel or blanket with you when you come to pick up the puppy, we can rub it over the mom to get her scent on it to make it more comforting for the little ones when they go home.

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## Bringing Your New Friend Home

Here is some information for you to help make your new friend's stay in his/her new home safe and enjoyable:

### **PUPPY PROOF YOUR HOME**

- Keep household cleaners and chemicals out of reach.
- Restrict access to plants that are dangerous to dogs: Poinsettias, azaleas, rhododendrons, dumb cane, Japanese yew, oleander and English ivy to mention a few.
- Hide or cover electrical cords so he won't chew on them.
- Safely store antifreeze, engine oil, laundry detergent and lawn chemicals.
- Keep kids' toys off the floor, since some parts may be small enough for your puppy to swallow.

### **WELCOME HOME**

As the 'parent' of a new puppy, it's your responsibility to get him used to his new surroundings. Think of him more as an infant than a pet; he'll need plenty of patience, supervision and love. Here are a few things you can do to help him adjust:

- Bring him home when it's quite and calm, when you don't have a lot of company.
- Show him the area of your yard that will be his bathroom before bringing him inside. Take him there whenever he goes outside.
- Give your puppy his own space where you can keep his crate, complete with bedding and chew toys and leave the crate door open. He'll feel safe in his "den". Put down newspaper for accidents.
- Supervise your puppy at all times and play with him several times a day. This will help establish you as the pack leader.
- Give him bathroom breaks every few hours and right after eating, drinking, sleeping and playing. Watch for signals like sniffing or circling. Never punish your puppy for accidents, instead, praise him when he goes in his outdoor spot.
- Observe his actions and reactions carefully. Handle him frequently and briefly. Don't let him get tired or over-stimulated. Supervise children's activities with the puppy and keep those activities within common sense. Children must be made to realize that the puppy is a little baby and needs to rest often.
- You have to understand that your little puppy is just like a human toddler. He has been taken away from his siblings and parents. Don't be surprised if he keeps you up by crying for a night or two (or three!). Visit him often during the night. He will get used to your smell and will soon realize that you are there to protect and comfort him. Puppies also like to be held next to your skin where they can feel your heartbeat and your warmth. Put a hot water bottle, an indestructible stuffed toy or a windup, ticking clock wrapped in a towel in his crate for comfort.
- Talking to your puppy in a soft, reassuring voice is extremely important. He may not understand the words, but he will appreciate and understand the meaning. **However, don't pick him up every time he cries or barks, or he will soon associate that undesirable behavior with getting a positive response.**

### **GETTING EXERCISE**

An appropriate amount of exercise will help promote your new puppy's good behavior and assist you in training him. Talk with your veterinarian about how much daily exercise your breed typically needs. Some dogs are just naturally more high-energy and need more exercise than others.

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## MEETING CHILDREN

- You should have no trouble at all encouraging your children to play with your new puppy. Still, you'll want to supervise his first interactions with the kids and set play-time limits for the first few days.
- No rough teasing or playing. Explain to your kids that things such as tail-pulling and teasing can lead to bad behavior habits such as jumping up.
- Be gentle. Explain to the kids to never shout at the puppy, even if he does something wrong. Puppies are very sensitive to loud noises and can easily be startled.
- Supervise children's activities with the puppy and keep those activities within common sense. Children must be made to realize that the puppy is a little baby and needs to rest often.

## INTRODUCING OTHER PETS

- Do it gradually. Keep them separated for the first few days.
- Keep the puppy safely in his crate or behind an expandable door way gate as you supervise their first meeting.
- After several days of sniffing each other out, use your best judgment from here as to when to allow them to interact without any barriers. You'll want to supervise the first few interactions and keep in mind that your resident dog will be extremely jealous of the additional attention the puppy is getting so make sure to not give too much attention to the puppy directly in front of the other dog.

## TOP 5 HOUSEBREAKING TIPS

House breaking your new puppy may seem like a daunting task, but with a bit of insight into dogs psychology and these proven tips, your new puppy will learn quickly.

1. **Select the site.** Before your new puppy enters your house, introduce him to the specific area of your yard you've already designated as his bathroom site. He'll soon associate it with bathroom tasks.
2. **Visit it often.** It's best to take your puppy outside about every two hours as well as upon waking, after playing and feeding and before going to bed. In addition, be alert to the signals like sniffing and circling that may indicate he has to go.
3. **Use his crate.** When you can't be there, crate your dog. Your dog respects his new "den" and will avoid soiling it. If you purchase a crate large enough to accommodate his size once he's full grown, make sure you can partition it off so he won't go in one area of it and sleep in another.
4. **Correct him kindly.** Accidents will happen. Remember that shouting, scolding and punishment serve no purpose and will only confuse your dog. Even if you catch him in mid-act, simply say "No!" and immediately take him outside to his potty area.
5. **Praise him.** Lavish praise on your puppy each time he goes outside in his assigned spot. Speak in an upbeat voice, smile and reward him with treats after he does his business.