



Preparations for bringing home your new pet

Taking your pet home for the first time is very exciting for both you and your new family member. Take a moment to make sure you have all their supplies before they arrive. Here are some suggestions.

Food: In the beginning it is best to stick to the same food that the shelter has been providing. You can introduce other brands slowly to get them use to a different diet. Dogs and cats generally eat twice a day, in the morning and at night. Kittens and puppies will need to be fed three to four meals a day depending on their size. Wet food may be more appealing to kittens than dry and prevents dehydration. Make sure your animal has plenty of clean drinking water.

Litter: Most kittens will use a litter box right away. You just need to leave it in a place where they can find it. You should clean it daily with a litter scoop to remove kitty poop as this will cut down on odors significantly. Puppies might do well with puppy pee pads but should be taken out often especially after eating to cut down on accidents. Larger dogs should be walked three times a day, after meals if possible and before bedtime.

Crate: Crate training is a great option for your puppy! A dog who is comfortable in a crate can be house trained faster, won't get into the trash while you're out of the house, and can travel safely in the car. Once your dog is accustomed to a comfortable crate, you may find that he or she even chooses to hang out in there regularly. Following the tips below will ensure that your dog views the crate as a quiet space where he or she can rest safely.

1. Start Slowly

Always be sure to gradually introduce time spent in a crate. First, start by giving your dog a treat every time he or she voluntarily walks inside. Feeding your puppy meals inside the crate will further create a positive association. Once he/she seems comfortable and walks into the crate easily, you can close the door for a few seconds. With plenty of positive reinforcement, try to gradually work up to leaving the room for increasing amounts of time. You'll need to start with only a minute or two, then slowly increase. If your dog seems stressed when you return, you may need to back up a stage: it's important to make this a positive experience. Eventually, try adding a command such as "Crate" or "Kennel" to signal the behavior. Always provide lots of yummy treats to ensure that your pet develops a positive relationship with the crate.

As your puppy grows, you'll need to balance how long you can leave him in a crate with how long he can hold his bladder. A good rule of thumb is that a puppy can control his bladder for one hour longer than the number of months he is old. This means that a 3-month-old puppy can wait 4 hours, a 4-month-old puppy can wait 5 hours, etc.

2. Choose the Right Crate

While the largest crate may logically seem like the most comfortable option for your puppy, too much space can actually hinder house training. Dogs will naturally avoid going to the bathroom in the same area where they sleep, which means they are unlikely to urinate or defecate in an

appropriately sized crate. Your dog should be able to stand up, lie down, and turn around easily. Try to avoid excess space where your puppy will be able to sleep on one side and go to the bathroom on the other.

3. Never Use the Crate as Punishment

Successful crate training means that your dog associates the crate with safety and calm. If he or she is forced into the crate following bad behavior while you are upset, a negative relationship will develop. It's a good idea to always provide a reward when your dog goes into the crate, even if he or she is fully trained. Your older dog will still appreciate the reward!

Toys: Dog toys should be safe, durable, and most of all, fun. Many of those factors, however, are completely dependent upon your dog's size, activity level, and personal preference. Pay attention to a toy's size. It must be appropriate to the breed and age of your canine. A large model will be too tough for a puppy, and a large dog can simply swallow a small toy. It is important to make sure that nothing hurts him. So, the items should be non-toxic. If you choose between latex and rubber, choose rubber as it is more durable.

Kittens love to play—but it's not just for fun. Play is a critical aspect of their development, helping them develop social, hunting, and movement skills. You can feel good buying your kitten a wide variety of toys to explore—after all, you're preparing them to live their best life.

Collars: Harnesses are usually the best choice for walking dogs because they don't put pressure on the neck. But collars are generally more comfortable and have a place to hold an ID tag. You should use a harness and not a collar if you have a dog prone to breathing issues (like a pug).

Leashes: The best dog leash to use is a traditional, **6-foot Nylon or leather leash**. 6 foot is long enough to provide freedom of movement while keeping your dog close and under your control. Whether Nylon or leather...that choice is up to you. But avoid other materials such as cloth and rubber as they aren't as strong or durable.

Tags: All cats and dogs need to wear collars with ID tags & rabies vaccination tags. The ID tag should include the owner's name, address, telephone numbers (day and evening) and the pet's name.

Information about your animal's medical condition: If your pet has a medical condition, make sure you understand what his needs are and be consistent if he needs medication. Bring him to the Vet when necessary for check-ups

Flea/tick medication: Ticks and mosquitoes are dangerous to the health of people as well as pets. For that reason, flea and tick protection is essential for all dogs and cats that live with you." Talk to your vet about the right option for your pet.

Heartworm Medication: Heartworm prevention for dogs and cats is an important concern for every pet owner. Prevention is an important part of providing essential care, and heartworm disease prevention for your pet is something every owner can do. Heartworm disease can be prevented in dogs and cats by giving them medication once a month that also controls various internal and external parasites.