

BEFORE YOU GET YOUR PUPPY SHOPPING LIST...



1 BABY GATE / PLAY PEN

These items are essential for puppy management. The play pen will be where your puppy spends all their unsupervised time. Within the play pen is the crate- with a bed inside, food/water bowls, towels, and enrichment.

2 CRATE / CRATE COVER

The crate should be just big enough for your puppy to stand up and turn around in. Wire crates often come with dividers so you can adjust the crate size as your puppy grows. Make sure you invest some time in crate-training your puppy. We want the crate to be a place your puppy loves.

3 CHEW TOYS

Lots and lots of chew toys! Rubber ones, wooden ones, hard plastic ones, soft rope ones, cloth ones. Puppies chew. This is a fact of life. Set them up for success by making sure they have plenty of outlets for appropriate chewing.

4 FOOD PUZZLE TOYS

Dogs have a natural desire to engage in enriching mental and physical activities. Leave them to their own devices and they'll likely choose an activity we don't approve of. Let's set them up for success and put mealtime to better use!

5 FRONT CLIPPING HARNESS

There are many great harness options to choose from. Harnesses that clip in the front are essential to help minimize pulling. Even if your puppy can't walk outside yet, practice putting it on so your puppy gets used to wearing it.

6 LEASHES

Avoid retractable leashes- they can cause injury and don't give you enough control, especially on busy city streets. 4-6 ft, light weight leashes are best. Having a 15-20 foot leash for recall practice is handy too.

7 PUPPY SLING

This is an essential item for socializing your puppy before they have had all their vaccinations. Unfortunately, many vets recommend keeping your puppy at home during their prime socialization period. Taking your puppy out and about in a sling protects them from viruses while still socializing them to the world.

8 BEDS

Having multiple beds around your house, in the areas your puppy spends time, gives them cozy places to be that are appropriate. That way you spend less time telling them no and more time saying "yes!".

9 TREATS

Would you go to work if you didn't get paid? Of course not! So why would we expect our dogs to? Treats help us communicate with our dogs and motivate them. It is our way of paying them for doing what we've asked. It is also how we create a cohesive partnership instead of a power dynamic.

10 TOYS FOR INTERACTIVE PLAY

Squeaky stuffed toys, bouncy balls, squeaky balls, tug toys, flirt polls are all examples of fantastically fun toys for you and your puppy to play with together. Play is such an important part of the dog-human bond.