

The Puppy Shopping List

Preparing to bring your pup home

By Lisa Treen with Photography by Animax

Getting a new puppy and bringing him/her home can be both a wonderful and nerve racking experience. Preparation is the key for making the transition from breeder or shelter to your home a smooth and relatively stress free one.

There's some important planning that you will have to make before puppy even enters your home. Decisions need to be made about where the pup is to be housed and their need for a safe and secure area. Your puppy is going to need a place that he can call home and you may decide that this area will initially be an area like the laundry, a crate or pen. The laundry is an obvious choice to many people as it's a compact room and pup will feel more secure in a more confined area rather than a vast room. The laundry area, in many homes, have easy to clean floor surfaces like tiles or lino. Crates* are a wonderful concept as they provide a 'den-like' place to retreat and sleep.

Making sure you have all the necessities before pup is carried over the threshold is very important. You don't want to bring puppy home, only to have to rush out and buy the essentials. So let's go shopping and look at some of pup's little life essentials you'll need before he/she comes home.

Puppy Chow

Nutrition is important for a healthy pet and puppies have special dietary needs for their growth and development. Ideally the breeder would have supplied a few days worth of food that puppy is accustomed to. At the very least, the breeder should supply you with the brand and formula that puppy has been consuming since weaned. To continue on the brand provided, would be ideal until pup settles in, as a sudden change of food can cause stomach upsets.

Choosing the brand of food that's right for your pup can be a daunting task as there are so many brands. Some brands even have puppy food that is formulated for the size and needs of the breed. If you're feeling stressed by the myriad of choices then you may wish to consult the assistance of your vet or a pet health care professional. Getting the right nutritional start for your pup is very important and this is not something that should be skimped on.



PUPPY SHAMPOO

Squirrt Puppy Shampoo contains good stuff like lanolin and is specially formulated to moisturise and protect your puppy's coat. Use it as often as you like to keep your puppy looking and feeling great.

RRP \$11.95

The Squirrt range of stuff comes in sweet smelling flavours like Pina Colada, Kahlua and Coconut - you'll love them as much as your dog!



WARNING: Do not bath while drinking cocktails!!

The Squirrt range comes in Shampoo, a mild formula Shampoo (for the sensitive dogs), Puppy Shampoo, Conditioner and two care products; Detangler and Spray and Shine, to keep your dog's coat in optimum condition.

Available from selected pet stores and vets. R.R.P. \$11.95 Email: squirrt@vetcompanies.com.au



Glamour Pets

Designer Stainless Steel Bowls

Frangipanni Bowls

Striped Ceramic Bowls

Melamine Bowls

Rubber Feeling Mats

Sperling Enterprises, Sydney, Australia
www.sperling.com.au
Ph: 02 9821 1444 Fax: 02 98212641



The Dish on Pet Bowls

There's an endless range of pet bowls on the market, from cheapo plastic ones found in your supermarket, to the high-end, designer brands. A cheap plastic bowl will set you back around \$4.50 to the Alessi branded, Lupita bowl retailing for \$130.00. You can go beyond to the attractive, yet totally impractical, gilt-edged Royal Doulton model that sells for just under (and we mean just under) \$1,000.00.

The best option for pups is a sturdy stainless steel model that has a non-slip, rubber bottom. Plastic is easily chewed and ceramic ones can be tipped and broken so stainless steel is the recommended material. Stainless steel is easily cleaned, is dishwasher safe and can't be chewed unless you have Tyrannosaurus Rex-Puppy. A couple of stainless steel bowls around the capacity of 500ml or 16oz will set you back about \$20.00



A new leash on life

A 'starter' collar and lead will be an important initial purchase. Making a practical decision on what you'll put on your pup is far more important than any fashion consideration. Puppy will grow and eventually will outgrow their first collar, so find one that can be adjusted easily for the first few months of their life. Lightweight webbing collars are a smart choice. Many have snap closures and can be expanded as puppy grows. If you're looking for a traditional buckle collar, look for one where the prong of the buckle fits through the webbing material, rather than relying on riveted eyelets.

A lightweight lead is essential for leash training at home and when you eventually venture into the great outdoors. Avoid retractable leads as these can get easily tangled, are hard to manage (a puppy experiencing new environments is tricky enough to handle). Retractable leads don't provide a great start to loose leash training.



A long, lightweight lead for recall training should also be considered. These can be around 4 to 5 metres in length and should only be used in a park situation where pup is able to run yet you're able to step on the lead should pup venture too far. This long and lightweight lead is an invaluable tool for teaching recall, yet still maintain a safe connection to your pup. These are a little hard to find in your average pet store so make some enquiries on availability.



Tag 'em

A collar and outdoor excursions require an identification tag in the unlikely and unfortunate event that pup could become separated from you. The smaller the pup, the more lightweight the tag should be. Tinkly or noisy tags can be scary on a small pup so look for a lightweight version that is more temporary than a heavier, traditional engraved variety. There are lightweight ones that you can easily write immediate contact details on. When pup is bigger and bolder you can upgrade to a more robust and permanent one.



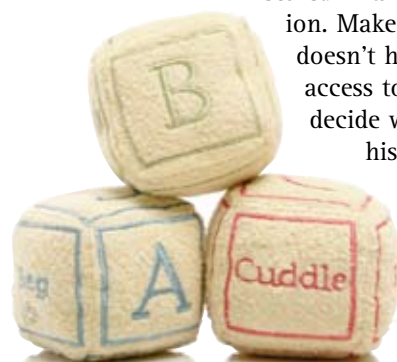
Toys, Toys and more Toys

Toys for fun. Toys as a reward. Toys as enrichment. Toys to bust boredom. Variety is the spice of life when it comes to buying a selection of fun stuff for your little pup. What you choose is up to you, however safety and durability should be a major consideration. Rope and tug toys can provide hours of chewy fun. Durable toys that can be stuffed with treats are excellent boredom busters—look for Kongs, minty fresh Orbee and the interlocking Canine Genius—and all come in puppy-sized versions.

Plush squeaky toys are a fun addition to the toy box, however you should always supervise pup as these can be easily ripped apart and the hidden, plastic squeaker needs to be removed from puppy immediately so that it's not ingested.

Little teeth need teething toys to chomp, chew, explore and even soothe, from natural pigs' ears to nobby plastic ones that can be chilled in the freezer. Again, there's a huge range from your quality pet store.

Toys should be rotated so that pup doesn't become too bored. Create a special toy box where toys are stored in an orderly fashion. Make sure that pup doesn't have unsupervised access to the toy box. You decide what and when pup gets his toys.



Glamour Pets

Striped Beds

Frangipani Beds

Plush Throws

Sperling Enterprises, Sydney, Australia
www.sperling.com.au
Ph: 02 9821 1444 Fax: 02 98212641



Cleanup on aisle four!

Puppies create mess—from chewing to toileting accidents. Have a plan and products ready to clean up the mess without too much fuss. Odour eliminating products are vital in neutralising stinky smells. Products that eliminate toilet smells can ensure that puppy doesn't keep going back to your favourite rug when nature calls.

Puppy wee pads are an excellent house training aid and provide protection to floors. Most have a built-in attractant that encourages pup to eliminate and are super absorbent, making sure that moisture is trapped to prevent leakage.

Pup clean-up can create the most friction in households so map out a rotating clean-up roster between adult and young adult members of the household. All too often it's left to one person to bear the burden of this unpleasant chore and this can cause resentment and tension. Rotate either on an am/pm schedule or day on/day off schedule. Either way, there will be less whining and crying—from the humans in the house, not the pup.

Puppy Proofing

This needn't be an expensive exercise, but it's vital to make sure that your home or the areas pup has access to are safe. Take time to crawl around at puppy level to spot potential health hazards like chewable electrical cords. Invest in sturdy barriers and gates. Large hardware stores and baby shops will have a variety of barriers and kid-safe locks.

Shop for your Vet and Veterinary practice

Don't wait for an emergency or puppy's vaccinations to go looking for a Vet. Your Vet is the most crucial consideration so make sure that this is the pet professional you're going to have a long and happy relationship with. A Vet that sees your pet regularly will notice subtle differences in their health and can be a valuable source of information recommending other pet professionals such as groomers, dog day care centres, boarding facilities and walkers. Talk to pet people in your neighbourhood and ask their opinion on the various Vets in your area. Check out the practice ahead of time and meet the staff. Remind yourself to be objective to what many pet owners tell you in relation to expense—the more expensive practice in your area may well be a little dearer due to having more technically advanced medical equipment.



And so to bed

The one item you may regret spending too much money is your puppy's bed. Often a bed is one of the many things your pup is going to enjoy chewing and the item you're not happy replacing. A cheaper option would be a cubby or cardboard box, all fitted out with a snugly blanket. Save the gorgeous designer bed for when pup is a little more grown up.



The stuff money can't buy

All the toys and puppy possessions you can shop for are no substitute for what puppy really needs—lots of love, boundaries and guidance. Happiness really is a warm puppy!

*See article on Crate Expectations on page 55.

Safari blanket from MuttSpace.com.au ph (02) 9557 7631
Bed & Puppy Cubby from Snoozaphone.com.au ph (03) 9587 3455

TAILS R WAGGING

HOLISTIC CARE FOR YOUR CAT AND DOG

254 DARLING STREET BALMAIN NSW 2041 AUSTRALIA
(50M DOWN FROM WOOLWORTHS)



QUALIFIED & CARING
GROOMERS

QUALIFIED & EXPERIENCED
VET NURSE ON STAFF

PUPPY PARENTING SCHOOL

FREE CONSULTATIONS

• **GROOMING • DIET • HEALTH**

**EXCLUSIVE AND INNOVATIVE
DESIGNER PRODUCTS**



DESIGNER RETRACTABLE DOG LEADS



3 SIZES
2 COLOURS
AVAILABLE

"COOL!!!
ALUMINIUM
NOT PLASTIC"

TWO COLOURS &
THREE SIZES
AVAILABLE



4 SIZES
8 COLOURS
AVAILABLE

"Award Winning,
ECO Friendly and
Vet Endorsed"

EXTERIOR MADE FROM ECO2
RECYCLED COTTON FIBER AND
INTERIOR FIBERFILL MADE FROM
RECYCLED PET BOTTLES.

**VERY COMPETITIVE PRICES
ON PREMIUM PET FOOD**

FREE DELIVERY SYDNEY INNER WEST



• BARF • TUCKERTIME • SCOTTYS • KAZZAS K9 CUISINE • ORGANING TREATS

(02) 9555 7799
WWW.TAILSRWAGGING.COM