

## Before You Bring Your New Puppy Home

First, congratulations on your new puppy!! When bringing home your new puppy, remember that there are numerous items you should have on hand before the new member of the family arrives. One of the most important items is a "crate". This will serve as a sense of security to your pet, as well as a safe enclosure should your pet need to be left alone and you cannot provide supervision. The following are a list of items that will help you and your pet live happily together.

**1. Crate:** Vari Kennel, plastic airline type crates are light weight, easy to disassemble, and easy to clean. The weight and size of your pet will be a key factor in the size of your crate. Be certain it is not too big or too small.

**2. Leash:** A leash is a very important item to have when owning a pet. A leash will provide control, security, and is a helpful tool in training your pet.

**3. Collar:** Collars can be used for the attachment of identification tags should your pet wander off your property. They can also be very helpful when you need to quickly grab your pet in an emergency or to stop them before they do or eat something bad. And of course, they are the prime place to attach your leash.

**4. Food and Water Bowls:** Stainless steel works best because they are lightweight, easy to clean, and less likely to house the bacteria that plastic bowls do. Dog food and water bowls come in many sizes ranging from small to extra large. You will need to pick out the appropriate size bowl that will fit your dog.

**5. Safe "Chew" Toys:** Chew toys such as Nylabone and Greenies can be a great chew toy for your pet. Talk to your veterinarian about which toy products would be the safest and best fit for your new companion.

**6. Grooming Brushes:** Brushes come in very handy to help maintain your pet's coat and prevent any mats that may accumulate in the fur. Flea combs are also a good item to have on hand and should be used regularly to make sure there are no fleas hiding in your pet's coat.

**7. Nail Clippers:** Dogs' nails should be clipped every one to two weeks, depending on the individual and how much they naturally wear them down during daily activity. Remember to pick the size and style that best suits you and your pet. A helpful hint! It is a good idea to have Kwik Stop Styptic Powder on hand to control bleeding should you accidentally cut the "quick" when trimming your pet's nails.

**8. Dog Shampoo:** Any tearless puppy shampoo is good to start with. Puppy shampoo comes in many different formulas and scents. Remember, NEVER use human shampoo on your family pet. Human shampoo is not formulated for any dog no matter how old and can be very toxic to your pet.