



Getting Ready for Your New Dog or Puppy

Pre-Adoption Shopping List

- 6 to 8 foot leash (nylon, cotton or leather) with a small snap
- Soft, well-fitting adjustable or buckle collar
- Crate or baby gate
- Comfortable dog bed
- Pooper scooper and/or waste pick-up bags
- Bowls for food and water
- Identification tag with your personal contact information
- Good chew toys, including:

Nylabones

Galileo bones (for strong jawed dogs)

Buster Cube toys (or other interactive food toys)

Sterilized bones (can be stuffed with various food items to occupy your pup)

Kong toys (can also be stuffed with food items)

Rope or tug toys

Fuzzy “chew men” or stuffed animals with all plastic parts removed*

Vinyl or latex squeaky toys*

Tennis balls*

** Best with supervision. Use with caution; if your dog shreds these toys, they will not be safe play items.*

Please also see our handout on “Getting the Most Out of Playtime” for toys to avoid.

- Pet repellents, such as Bitter Apple spray (bad taste inhibits inappropriate chewing), Keep Off! Pet Repellent (deters via scent and may work where Bitter Apple fails), or Best Behavior
- Odor eliminating clean-up products, such as Stain Stealer, Nature’s Miracle, or a mixture of white vinegar and water

What about food?

You *can* buy food in advance, but check to see what the pet you are adopting is currently eating. Switching to a new food abruptly can cause stomach upset, diarrhea, vomiting, excess gas, or constipation, or your pet may be on a special diet and should only eat a certain food.

If you would like to feed a different kind of food, buy a small bag of the food the pet is currently eating and transition them to the new food slowly over the course of a week, gradually increasing the amount of the new food and decreasing the amount of the old food.