

## Basic Puppy Supplies

### Basic Puppy Toys & Tools

All dogs need their own “things” – that is to say, they have some basic equipment needs. Your best place to purchase these items is a “pet specialty” type of store where there is a wide variety of supplies. What do you need before you bring your puppy/dog home?

Expandable baby gate — used to block off areas from puppy, or an expense to confine the puppy to a small place that is easily cleaned.

- \* 6 foot leather leash
- \* 10-20 foot long line for advanced training
- \* Leather or other material collar for ID purposes only
- \* Training collars (prong nylon pinch-type collar)
- \* Microchip your pup at appropriate time.
- \* Crate (size for when puppy becomes an adult size)
- \* Chew toys appropriate for the age of your puppy or dog, such as Kongs, Nylabones
- \* Stainless steel bowls

A prong collar may look like something from the medieval torture chambers, but it is actually easier on a dog’s neck than a pinch collar. Prong collars are like “power steering” as opposed to manual stick shifts. These collars are only on when you are with the dog and you plan on doing some training with her/him. Otherwise your dog should be wearing a flat ID collar at all times with information on how to contact you.

Stainless steel water and food bowls (ceramic ones break and chip, and puppies can swallow the sharp shards).

Stainless steel equipment lasts almost forever, it doesn’t rust, and you only have to buy the item one time. Puppies that are teething will chew up anything in sight, and a plastic bowl can be shredded in no time. Do your dog and your budget a favor, get stainless steel bowls.

### Short pull-tab leash

This is usually a leather mini-leash (8 inches) that you can attach to your dog’s collar while you’re at home and the dog is free to be with you. If your dog needs to be corrected (usually while you’re reading the paper) you can quickly get up, put the dog where you want him by grabbing the pull-tab, then go back to what you were doing.

### Chew bones

I highly recommend the “Nylabone” brand because I have found it to be the safest for a young puppy and older dogs as well. Buy these items large enough so that there is no

chance that the “chewy” can be swallowed. I don’t use the “rawhide” type chews because they have been proven to be dangerous to your dog’s digestive system.

I also give my dogs raw beef marrow bones from the butcher. Just a minute to boil them to get rid of any bacteria, then bag and freeze until ready to use. You can also reuse these bones and fill/freeze for future times.

Crate (for the size of your dog as an adult)

Your dog is basically a “denning” animal and they feel perfectly happy and safe in their “own space.” You have your bedroom, give your dog his/her room. Crates make housebreaking an easier task. However, if your dog is crated a lot during the day, you do need to make sure they can relieve themselves in the area you designate, and to be exercised. Think about this: how would you like to be in a little confined space all day long with nowhere to go?

Always have lots of fresh water available for your dog whether it is in or out. Clean all bowls daily just like you do your own dishes.

Kong rubber toys – these are almost indestructible and may last years. These are also great baby sitters when you can’t give the pup attention. Freezing them makes them an all-day sucker for your pup, especially during teething time. Kongs (the med/large red ones) are great to use as partial meal substitutes when your puppy needs to be crated for a couple of hours. These would be filled and frozen like the marrow bones above.