

The Animal Doctors of OC



NEW PUPPY MUST HAVES

BRINGING HOME A NEW DOG COMES WITH A LONG LIST OF DECISIONS. THIS CHECKLIST BREAKS IT DOWN BY PRIORITY, SO YOU KNOW WHAT NEEDS YOUR ATTENTION FIRST AND WHAT CAN WAIT.

BEFORE PICKUP (HIGHEST PRIORITY)

- ☐ Research common characteristics, requirements and illnesses this breed may have
- ☐ Complete & balanced Dog food matched to your dog's life stage
 - Recommendations
 - Royal Canin
 - Purina
 - Hill's Science Diet
- ☐ Stainless Steel Bowls
- ☐ Crate & bedding
- ☐ Collar, harness & leash
 - ID tag on hand with 2 phone numbers

DAY ONE (SETTLE IN)

- ☐ Set up a quiet resting space
 - A crate, pen, or cozy bed
- ☐ Keep the ID tag on
 - Even indoors, just in case
- ☐ Let them decompress
 - Dogs are pack animals, so stay close, keep them calm

FIRST WEEK (GET STARTED)

- ☐ Create a document folder for dog's paperwork
 - Adoption paperwork
 - Previous Vaccines
 - Etc*either physical or on PC
- ☐ Start leash walking
 - Harness fitted to your dog
- ☐ Research & Schedule Your Veterinary Visit
 - First wellness check
 - Bring copy of their vaccine records
- ☐ Begin house training
 - Watch YouTubes to get started
 - Research dog trainers, or ask us for recommendations

PRIORITY BUYS

Must-Haves:

- ID tag, collar & leash
- Food & water bowls
- Crate or bed
- Enzymatic floor cleaner
- Grooming Supplies
 - Nail trimmers
 - Ear Cleaner
 - Dog Shampoo

Nice-to-Haves:

- Poop-bag dispenser
- Dental Chews
- Puzzle toys
- Training supplies
 - Clicker
 - High-value treats
- GPS tag

ASK YOUR VET ABOUT

- ☐ Pet insurance while your dog is young & healthy
- ☐ Trainer recommendations for your area
- ☐ Vaccine packages (reduced cost)
- ☐ Veterinary membership (for discounts)
- ☐ Flea & Tick control recommendations
- ☐ Spay & Neuter timing (if applicable)

"They have that unconditional love. You can tell them anything, and they accept it." – Dolly Parton

STAY CONSISTENT

- ☐ Training
 - Stay consistent with rewards as it builds trust & good habits that last
- ☐ Grooming
 - Brush fur, trim nails & use vet-approved ear cleaner to keep them comfortable & healthy
- ☐ Safety
 - Gates, crate restraint & puppy-proofing helps prevent accidents before they happen
- ☐ Patience
 - Remember, you're their whole world after a long day apart

STAY CONNECTED

Follow us on social media for daily tips, new blog posts, and updates from our team



93% of lost dogs are found within **24 HRS**
but that drops to **60%** after the first day.

Keep a collar, ID tag, & updated microchip on your dog from day one.
*ASPCA National Survey