

## ITEMS WE CONSIDER TO BE A “MUST HAVE”

### COLLAR

Your puppy will likely go through several collars before they are full grown, so do not spend too much money initially for this evolving necessity. I like the Ruffwear collars because they are adjustable, have a separate clip for tags and although they feel light, they are tough. When fitting a collar, you should be able to get no more than two fingers between your puppy and the collar. Check it often as they grow and remember to loosen it as necessary.

### LEASH

A simple 4–6-foot leash is ideal for puppy training. We do not recommend flexible leashes because they put slight pressure on your puppy's neck, which detracts from our "NO PULL" policy while your puppy is on a walk. A new favorite of ours comes from Lupine Pet where their leashes are guaranteed. If your puppy chews through them, they replace it for free! They also sell 30' leads for recall work.

### CRATE

A crate is a core component of The Online Puppy School and a valuable tool for housetraining. There are metal crates or plastic ones. The metal ones look elegant in a home setting and allow your pet to see all around, but the plastic ones are nice for car rides and provide more of a den-like feel at night. The metal crates come with a divider so they grow with your puppy. The plastic crates do not so you may need several sizes as your dog grows. Start with a size that is approximately two inches both taller and longer than your puppy. With metal crates, be sure to remove your puppy's collar before leaving them in one as the collar may catch on the inside latches.

### FOOD DISH

Every dog needs a food dish. We suggest stainless steel because they are easily washed and super durable - less likely to be chewed. A puzzle bowl is nice for puppies who eat too quickly. If you feel your puppy fits this category, try a muffin tin instead of the traditional bowl.

### WATER BOWLS

Puppies need access to fresh water throughout the day. I find it nice to use a pet waterer that holds up to two gallons of water, conveniently dispensing as needed. I clean it out often and refill it as needed, which by design cuts down on the times I spend refilling the water bowl on a daily basis - plus I know my puppy always has fresh water available. I also add one tablespoon of Apple Cider Vinegar to the tank as it aids in the overall health of my pet.

### FOOD

It is a good idea to keep your puppy on the same food they have been eating at your breeder's home, for at least two months after bringing them home. At that point, only switch foods if you see a need. If you do need to make a change, be sure to consult with your veterinarian and slowly switch over as the directions say on the new food.

### BRUSH

There are many different types of dog brushes on the market today. Visit a local groomer and ask for their recommendations for your puppy's coat type. I like to start with a pin brush as it is gentle enough to start my puppy off on a positive note with grooming. While this brush is ideal in getting your puppy comfortable with the idea of grooming, be sure to purchase the necessary tools for your puppy's coat to prevent matting, especially in long-haired breeds.

### TOOTHBRUSH & TOOTHPASTE

Just like people, canines need their teeth brushed to reduce plaque and tartar build-up. Most puppies love liver flavored toothpaste and the finger brush seems to be the easiest method of getting a puppy accustomed to having their teeth cleaned. Start by brushing one tooth, then advance to two teeth and so on day-by-day until you are cleaning them all. Also, let your puppy lick some of the toothpaste from the brush afterwards to create better impressions about it.

## **NAIL CLIPPERS OR A DREMEL**

Puppies' nails grow and need to be trimmed on a regular basis. If they get too long, the nails can create issues with walking as well as the feet joints in general. If your puppy has clear nails or long hair, you may opt to use pet nail clippers as you can see the quick or sensitive part of the nail. However, if your puppy has black nails or short hair, I like to use a Dremel to file the nails. I use a Dremel every week and file just a little away to keep from cutting into the quick, causing pain and bleeding.

## **BENEBONES & NYLABONES**

We give our puppies these to chew on and act as extensions of our hands so the puppy can gnaw on the bones not us. There are several flavors available, and puppies are able to chew them for a very long time which saves you time, money and your furniture!

## **ROPE TOYS**

Sometimes puppies want to chew hard things and sometimes they want to chew soft things. Rope toys compliment the bones by giving your puppy a softer alternative. They are also great to give to your kids while playing with the puppy to help them from biting pant legs or sleeves - the puppy can grab the rope toy instead. Be sure not to leave your puppy alone with a rope toy though as they can shred it and digest the threads. Use under supervision.

## **EXERCISE PEN**

This gives your puppy a space to play and relax while NOT getting into trouble around your home. It's larger than their crate but small enough to help with housetraining. Be sure to give your puppy regular potty breaks when playing in a pen. Once your puppy can keep the exercise pen clean, then use it as a barrier/gate to give your puppy more space in your home. These pens are especially helpful if you have young children in the home and need separate spaces to keep them apart. Vertical slats prevent your puppy from climbing out.

## **OUTDOOR DOG RUN**

Dogs need exercise as well as a safe place to simply be a dog. I use my Preifert kennel several times a day as a holding pen for my puppy. They can play around with more space than the crate whenever I cannot watch them 100%. Kennels and crates are like play pens for babies in that they simply keep your puppy out of trouble and give them room to play. I always take my puppy potty before going into the kennel to make sure it stays clean.

## **FREEZE-DRIED MEAT**

Freeze-dried meat is THE KING OF TREATS for my dogs, and I use this for important things like housetraining help. Each time my puppy goes potty on cue when and where I want (YES, I go out with my puppy on a leash EVERY SINGLE TIME) they get one big piece of this stuff (usually I break it into fourths) and it quickly begins to positively reinforce the behavior. In short, this speeds up the potty-training process.

## **SOFT-CHEW TRAINING TREATS**

Training treats need to be soft so they can be eaten quickly. You need to be able to give your puppy a cue, reward with a treat and move on to the next one without them stopping to chew a hard biscuit. Save the biscuits to stuff in the Kong toys and invest in some soft palatable treats. Natural Balance Dog Food Roll in the beef flavor is a hit. Red Barn is another good brand. I cut it in small bites that I store in the fridge for daily use with my puppies.

## ITEMS WE CONSIDER TO BE A “NICE TO HAVE”

### **DOG BED**

We teach our puppies to go to a specific place, like a dog bed, on cue and they are not to get off until they are released with "OK." The "GO TO BED" cue may be used when the doorbell rings to keep your puppy from jumping on guests, during meal when you do not want your puppy begging for food and for office times when you need to get some work done while keeping your puppy within eyesight. Two beds we really like are the Coolaroo Elevated Pet Bed and the Wash N' Zip Pet Bed. The first can be found on Amazon.com. The Wash N' Zip site is <https://washnzipetbed.com/>. Use code BAXTER to save 15% off.

### **KONG TOYS**

Among my puppy's favorite things to chew is a Kong Wubba toy which squeaks and has flappy ends making it fun to chase. Kong does a good job of creating fun safe chew toys for dogs. The Kong Classic Toy is easy to stuff with kibble, biscuits, peanut butter, cream cheese, liver treats, etc. and keeps your pet busy for hours. I buy the pink or light blue puppy versions until my puppy's adult teeth come in and then I switch them to the red rubber. Kong also makes a black rubber for more aggressive chewers.

### **CHUCK IT BALL**

Many puppies go nuts for a game of fetch. My dogs absolutely love chasing tennis balls and I often use the game as motivation during training sessions. After they destroyed one or two, I found Chuck-It balls which seem to be indestructible! My dogs love these and I do too!

### **TREAT BAG**

During puppy training, you will always want easy access to treats. Put a treat jar by your front door for when visitors come, the back door where you take your puppy out to go potty, on the kitchen table, fireplace mantel and with you either in a half apron, your pockets or other treat pouch. Put the treats in something that attaches to the back of you, so your puppy looks at you and not the treat bag, stays in a semi-open position and closes to keep the treats fresh for the next training session.

### **POOCHIE BELLS**

I like Poochie Bells™ for my puppy. These bells have two upper bells and two lower bells and nicely accommodate dogs of different sizes. They are loud enough to be heard throughout my house and are built of a good quality. Likewise, I feel these bells look stylish enough to hang on a main door in my home and know they come in a variety of colors too.

### **POOP BAGS**

Part of being a pet owner is being a responsible one. Always clean up after your pet both in and out of your yard. We recommend keeping a poop bag tied to your leash every time you go on a walk just in case.

### **PET STAIN REMOVER**

Houstraining takes time and there will unfortunately be accidents... it is not if, but when? Stay calm and simply clean up the mess with a great product such as My Pet Peed. You want to use something that will remove the urine smell completely so your puppy does not return to that spot to go again.

### **BLACK LIGHT TECHNOLOGY**

We suggest watching your puppy 100% of the time while they are out playing in your home, however we recognize that sometimes they just get away from us even if just for a moment. Did your puppy go pee in a corner? Tired of getting on your hands and knees to feel around making sure the carpet is dry? You need one of these! I LOVE my blacklight during potty training. Once a week I can quickly scour my floors with the light and spot any mishaps that need cleaning. If anything, it gives me peace of mind that I am doing a good job with houstraining as I often find no mistakes, but it is helpful for those few times when I find one and want to make sure all the evidence is removed.

## **POOPER SCOOPER**

It is inevitable that the decision to get a puppy comes with the responsibility of cleaning up after him - so make it simple on yourself with a pooper scooper! The Nature's Miracle Jaw Dog Pooper Scooper makes it quick and easy to collect and clean messes from grassy, rocky, or wooded areas and deposit them in your trash receptacle.

## **COLLAPSIBLE BOWL**

It is a good idea to take your own water with you when you go places for your dog to drink. Do not allow them to share bowls with other dogs who may or may not be vaccinated. I like a good silicon collapsible bowl that folds flat, takes up very little space and yet is big enough for my dog to comfortably drink from it when necessary. I will fill up a water bottle with ice water and put it in my car along with this bowl for every outing we go on.

## **NO-PULL HARNESS**

There are products out there designed specifically to help your dog learn not pull on the leash. I recommend trying the attention walk for several weeks or even an entire month prior to resorting to any of these devices. When trained properly, your puppy can learn to walk on a leash using only positive training techniques, including high-value rewards. Although it takes time, it is totally worth it in the end. If your dog already has a habit of pulling, try a No-Pull Freedom Harness or the Blue9 Harness. When your dog starts to pull, the harness causes his body to turn back towards you, thus discouraging any further pulling action.

## **PUZZLE BOWL**

Some puppies gobble their food too quickly which can be dangerous. If you have such a puppy, we highly recommend a puzzle bowl like the one pictured or even a muffin tin to help your puppy SLOW down.

## **KONG WOBBLER**

This is another tool that helps puppies eat more slowly, but it can also be an interactive toy! Your puppy must push it with his paw to get food to spill out making mealtime into a fun game that requires some thinking too!

## **STYPTIC POWDER**

This handy powder stops bleeding quickly if you happen to clip your puppy's nails too short. You can also use a home remedy such as: baking soda, flour or cornstarch. Just dip your puppy's nail into the powder and it will clot.

## **SWEET POTATO CHEWS**

Sweet potato treats are not only delicious to your dog, but healthy too. They come in a dried, jerky-texture form so it entertains your puppy for a few minutes. I like to always have a mix of chews on hand to keep my puppy excited about what he might get next. These are consistently a favorite with my pups.