

Shopping For Your New Dog



Preparing your home for a new dog is important for the happiness and safety of your pet as well as your family.

Food

Choose dry food for healthier teeth and gums. Premium brands are recommended for their nutritional content and because of ingredient consistency. Banfield recommends Royal Canin® diets. Be sure to buy a product formulated for the age of your dog. Have fresh water available at all times.

Bowls

Stainless steel or ceramic bowls without painting on the inside are recommended. These are generally easier to keep clean and do not absorb odor like plastic bowls can.

Leash

We recommend using a regular 6-foot flat leash with loop handle. Avoid retractable leashes until your dog has been trained to heel properly.

Treats

Choose hard treats to help keep your dog's teeth and gums healthy. Treats should be fed in small amounts only. They are meant to be a tidbit to help with training and encourage desirable behaviors, not a dietary supplement or a significant source of dietary calories.

Kennel

There are crates designed for traveling with your dog, and crates designed for use in the home. If you are purchasing a crate for a puppy, choose one where he will be able to stand to full height when grown, turn around and lay down. You can purchase dividers to use until he is grown so there is not enough space for your dog to eliminate in one area and sleep in another.

Collar & ID tag

When choosing a collar, measure your dog's neck and add two inches to determine the proper collar size. You should be able to insert two fingers under the collar when it is in place. A tag inscribed with your dog's name and your address and phone number can be purchased at PetSmart®.

Chew toys

Choose chew toys, like Pedigree Dentabones®, that entertain your dog while benefiting his teeth. Do not give your puppy pig ears, cow hooves, or rawhide to chew on.

Grooming aids

- **Nail Clippers.** Use a guillotine-style clipper to keep your dogs nails trimmed. Keep a bleeding inhibitor, like a styptic pencil, on hand in case you cut too close.
- **Flea Comb.** If you live in a part of the country where fleas are a problem, be sure to use a flea comb to check for fleas regularly. The combing is also good for the skin.
- **Pooper Scooper.** Most cities have ordinances about cleaning up after your dog. A pooper scooper can make the task a little easier.
- **Wash Mitt & Brush.** Regularly using a wash mitt and brush on your dog will keep his coat in good condition for years to come.

Visit your local Banfield Pet Hospital® if you have any questions or need assistance. We're happy to help.

For additional information, please contact your Banfield medical team.

