

# Shopping for Your New Dog

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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 quality and consistency. Avoid foods with coloring. Be sure to buy a product formulated for the age and breed size of your dog. Have fresh water available at all times.

## Bowls

Use stainless steel or ceramic bowls without painting on the inside for food and water. Stay away from plastic which can smell and absorb bacteria.

## Leash

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



## Treats

Choose hard treats to keep your dog's teeth and gums healthy.

## 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. 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 and 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. A tag inscribed with your dog's name and your address and phone number should be kept on the collar. Permanent identification can be considered with a tattoo or microchip ID.

## Chew Toys

Choose chew toys, like Nylabones® or Kongs®, that entertain your dog while benefiting his teeth. Do not give your puppy pig ears, cow hooves, or rawhide to chew on as they can promote health and behavior problems.

## Grooming Aides

- **Nail Clippers.** Use a style appropriate to your dog's size to keep your dog's nails trimmed. Keep a bleeding inhibitor, like styptic powder, on hand in case you cut too close.
- **Flea Comb.** 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, and it is more sanitary for your family at home. A pooper scooper can make this task a little easier.
- **Brushes.** Regularly brushing your dog will keep his coat in good condition.