

THE NEW PUPPY CHECKLIST

What you need, why you need it, and what I recommend.



Bringing home a puppy can feel overwhelming. You don't need everything you see online. You need the right things, and you need to understand why you're using them.

BEFORE YOUR PUPPY COMES HOME

Blanket from the litter

This is the one thing on this list you can't buy.

Before collecting your puppy, ask the breeder for a small blanket carrying the familiar scent of their mother and littermates.

Your puppy is about to leave everything they know. A familiar scent in their sleeping area can make those first days feel a little less unfamiliar.

Ask for it before collection day, not when you're already on your way home.

A proper dog bed

Choose a bed large enough for proper, comfortable rest. Your puppy should be able to lie on their side, stretch out and fully extend their legs comfortably.

[VIEW MY RECOMMENDATION](#)

SLEEPING & RESTING

Crate

If you choose to use a crate, selecting an appropriate size is important. Your puppy should have enough room to stand, turn around and rest comfortably. If you buy a larger crate for future growth, consider using a divider while your puppy is still small.

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Crate cover

If you're using a crate, a cover can help create a quieter and more sheltered resting area, depending on your puppy and your home setup.

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Washable crate beds

Puppies have accidents, so having two washable beds can be extremely useful. One can be in use while the other is being washed.

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TOILET TRAINING

Training pads

Depending on your toilet-training setup and living situation, puppy pads can be useful during the early stages.

[VIEW MY RECOMMENDATION](#)

Real grass mat - Piddle Patch

If you'd prefer your puppy to practise toileting on a surface closer to what they'll eventually encounter outdoors, a real-grass mat can help create an early association between toileting and grass.

[VIEW PIDDLE PATCH](#)

Enzymatic cleaner

A floor can smell perfectly clean to you while your puppy can still detect traces left behind after an accident. An enzymatic cleaner helps break down those residues rather than simply covering the smell.

[Clean for your puppy's nose, not yours.](#)

[VIEW MY RECOMMENDATION](#)

Bacon treats for toilet training

Keep a very high-value reward specifically for successful toileting. Using something special only for this purpose can make the reward particularly meaningful to your puppy.

Use these specifically as toilet-training rewards.

These may be considerably cheaper in Tesco, Asda or Sainsbury's, so compare prices before ordering online.

[OPTION 1](#)

[OPTION 2](#)

My article: how to speed up toilet training

I've explained the technique I use to speed up puppy toilet training in this published article. Keep it with this checklist so you can return to it when you need it.

[READ MY TOILET TRAINING ARTICLE](#)

CREATING A SAFE HOME

Playpen

Your puppy doesn't need unlimited access to your home from day one. A playpen provides a safe, controlled area while your puppy learns what they can chew, where they can toilet and how to settle.

[Freedom should grow with your puppy's ability to handle it.](#)

[VIEW MY RECOMMENDATION](#)

Stair gate

Management is part of training. If there are areas your puppy shouldn't access, physically preventing access is often much easier than repeatedly correcting the behaviour later.

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Cling film for railings

Yes, cling film. Look carefully at open railings around stairs and balconies from the perspective of a very small puppy. If your puppy could fit through the gaps, securely covering the lower section can create a temporary barrier while they're still tiny.

[Look at your home from your puppy's size, not yours.](#)

Dog repellent - Global Herbs Citronella Spray

A dog-safe citronella repellent can be useful as a management tool in specific situations where you need to discourage access or chewing. Use it thoughtfully as part of management, not as a substitute for teaching your puppy what you want them to do instead.

[VIEW MY RECOMMENDATION](#)

WALKING & EXPLORING

Collar

Introduce a lightweight, correctly fitted collar while your puppy is getting used to their new environment. Check the size regularly as puppies grow quickly. Your dog will also need an identification tag containing the information required by law.

[MY PREFERRED OPTION](#)

[ALTERNATIVE 1](#)

[ALTERNATIVE 2](#)

Harness

Don't wait until the first proper walk to introduce the harness. Let your puppy become comfortable wearing it safely at home first.

[VIEW MY RECOMMENDATION](#)

Ideal walking lead

A straightforward everyday lead is one of the first pieces of equipment your puppy should become familiar with. For the recommended lead below, select the **SMALL** size.

[VIEW MY RECOMMENDATION](#)

Safety Line

A lightweight longer line allows your puppy to explore with more freedom while you retain an additional level of safety. A Safety Line is a safety tool, not a substitute for training.

The aim is to provide a safer bridge while your puppy learns the skills and mindset required for greater freedom.

[VIEW THE SAFETY LINE](#)

TRAINING, CHEWING & PLAY

Training treats

Treats have a job. Use small pieces to reward behaviours you want your puppy to repeat rather than handing them out randomly.

What gets rewarded is more likely to happen again.

[VIEW MY RECOMMENDATION](#)

Safe toys

Choose suitable toys and rotate them. This helps preserve novelty and creates more opportunities for interaction with you.

More toys doesn't automatically mean more enrichment.

[VIEW MY RECOMMENDATION](#)

Coffee or olive wood sticks

Suitable chewing options can give puppies an appropriate outlet for their natural need to chew and help redirect them away from household objects.

OPTION 1

OPTION 2

OPTION 3

Antlers & chews

Appropriate chews can help satisfy chewing needs and provide calm, independent activity. Always choose an option suitable for your puppy's size and supervise appropriately.

OPTION 1

OPTION 2

OPTION 3

OPTION 4

EVERYDAY ESSENTIALS

Food & water bowls

Choose practical bowls that are appropriately sized, stable and easy to clean.

[VIEW MY RECOMMENDATION](#)

Unscented poop bags

A simple everyday essential you'll need from the very first walks.

OPTION 1

OPTION 2

Portable water bowl

Useful for walks, travelling and days out, particularly when your puppy is away from home for longer periods.

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TRAVELLING SAFELY

Safe car travel

Your puppy should travel securely rather than being loose inside the car. The appropriate solution will depend on your vehicle, your puppy and the restraint or travel system you choose.

This section can be updated with the recommended product and published article once confirmed.

AND ONE THING YOU CAN'T PUT IN YOUR SHOPPING BASKET...

The right knowledge.

You can buy the perfect bed, lead, toys, gates and cleaning products and still find yourself wondering what to do next.

Your puppy is learning from you from the moment they come home. Reliable guidance is just as important as having the right equipment.

Every puppy owner needs a trusted source of information. If you'd like mine, that's why I created **DOG LICENCE(TM)**.

DOG LICENCE(TM) is a practical Learning Programme built from more than ten years of professional dog training experience, designed to give you the information you need when you need it, with guidance you can return to as your dog grows.

[DISCOVER DOG LICENCE\(TM\)](#)

ONE FINAL THOUGHT

Buying the right equipment helps. But no product can replace knowing what to do with your puppy.

The equipment helps you manage the puppy you have today. What you teach helps shape the dog you'll have tomorrow.

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