

New Dog Checklist

A new dog checklist for bringing home an adult or any dog, covering supplies, settling in, and building a routine.

Supplies to have ready

- ☐ Stock the food your dog already eats to avoid stomach upset.
- ☐ Get sturdy food and water bowls.
- ☐ Buy a collar with an ID tag, plus a leash and harness.
- ☐ Provide a comfortable bed and a crate or quiet safe space.
- ☐ Choose a few durable toys and chews.
- ☐ Keep cleanup supplies and enzyme cleaner on hand.

Preparing your home

- ☐ Dog-proof rooms by securing trash, cords, and hazards.
- ☐ Set up a calm, defined space where your dog can decompress.
- ☐ Check that fences, gates, and doors are secure with no gaps.
- ☐ Remove or store anything you do not want chewed early on.
- ☐ Decide house rules and share them with everyone at home.
- ☐ Plan to be home for the first days to ease the transition.

First vet visit

- ☐ Schedule a wellness exam soon after bringing your dog home.
- ☐ Bring any records and a stool sample if requested.
- ☐ Confirm vaccination status and any boosters needed.
- ☐ Discuss flea, tick, and worm prevention.
- ☐ Ask about the right food and amounts for your dog's size and age.
- ☐ Update microchip details and ask about spay or neuter if not done.

Settling in calmly

- ☐ Keep the homecoming low-key and the dog leashed at first.
- ☐ Introduce one room before opening up the whole house.
- ☐ Limit visitors and loud activity for the first days.
Give your dog time and space to decompress.
- ☐ Let your dog approach you rather than crowding them.
- ☐ Provide a quiet retreat your dog can return to.
- ☐ Watch for stress signals and give space when needed.

Building a routine

- ☐ Set consistent feeding times right away.
- ☐ Establish a regular potty and walk schedule.
- ☐ Add daily exercise suited to your dog's energy.
- ☐ Reinforce basic cues gently and positively.
- ☐ Keep rest, play, and downtime predictable.
- ☐ Introduce alone-time gradually to prevent anxiety.

Introductions and safety

- ☐ Introduce existing pets slowly and under supervision.
- ☐ Supervise all interactions with children and teach gentle handling.
- ☐ Keep ID and a recent photo in case your dog gets out.
- ☐ Avoid off-leash areas until you know your dog's recall.
- ☐ Save your vet and nearest emergency clinic numbers.
- ☐ Important: This is general information, not veterinary advice. Always consult a veterinarian about your dog's vaccinations, diet, and health.