

Survival Guide For New Dog Owners



*What Your Dog
Wants You
To Know*

Survival Guide for New Dog Owners: What Your Dog Wants You to Know

The prospect of getting a pet dog can be a great source of excitement and anticipation for the whole family. However, adopting a pet would equally mean taking on the responsibility and a lifetime commitment of providing a security and stability in the dog's life. If you had no prior experience with dogs, you will probably be too overwhelmed and find yourself at a loss on how to take care of a seemingly fragile bunch of fur. Chances are, you will soon find out you get more than you bargained for. But as any self-professed dog lovers out there would happily claim, everything would definitely be well worth the sacrifice and the occasional bouts or anxiety and frustration. It's no wonder dogs were long hailed as man's best friend. You probably can't find any better companion and ally than the adorable canines that unquestioningly offers you unwavering loyalty and boundless affection.

Before you bring a pup, common sense would tell and consult every household member about your plans. It would be quite unfair if you will immediately thrust all of them the same responsibility and the possibility of living amid breathing in the same room with a dog. Once, you get the go signal, it can be quite helpful if you read about the different breeds before deciding which one will best suit you. Encourage family member to participate in your search for the newest addition in the family.

Background Information

Health related issues concerning dogs could be a little tricky and complex than most people would care to anticipate. The most important thing is to have a keen knowledge on the specific predispositions and health concerns on the specific breed. It is quite important to learn everything you possibly can before you bring the puppy home. So learn as much you possibly can on information about the dog first.

After that, you need to make necessary preparations for your pet. Instead of having to make do with a makeshift bed on the first night, it will be best if you have everything ready right before you bring home the puppy. This will save you time running around the house and finding out you don't have the supplies needed. So here are the quick list of equipments you need:

- ***Collar and Tag*** – you need to have a form of identification with the name and home address along with contact numbers of the owner. Be sure to attach the collar and tag the minute you leave the breeder or shelter. Collars should not be too loose or too tight. The rule of the thumb here is you should be able to easily slip two fingers between the collar and the puppy's neck. Experts recommend the use of leather or nylon collars, since both are known to be more durable.
- ***Carrier***- If you have visions of your new puppy riding with you with his head stuck out on the car window, you should know that this is simply unadvisable in real life. A moving vehicle should not be a place for dogs of any age to freely roam around. A portable kennel or a carrier is needed to keep your pet safely in place when traveling around.

- **Leash** – choose the lightweight but sturdy ones, which are greatly needed for walking your dog around the neighborhood. A retractable leash would also be a good option to give your puppy the illusion of freedom but still effectively allows you to reel him in whenever necessary.

- **Food** – before buying any dog food, consult with a breeder or a veterinarian to expertly determine the nutritional needs of your pet. Ask the shelter or pet shop what type of food the dog was usually fed, and the specific brand used. If you plan to introduce different food, be sure to do so gradually by mixing the old and new. Abrupt changes in their diet may cause diarrhea and vomiting.

- **Grooming Items** – this includes flea combs, a wire slicker brush, nail trimmer, dog shampoo and soap, doggie toothpaste and other cleaning solution.

- **First Aid Kit** – there are a number of ready made first aid pet kits in most veterinary clinics and pet shops today. However, if you want to put one together on your own, it should include gauze bandages, needle-less syringe, a rectal thermometer, tweezers, liquid medications, antibiotic ointments, activated charcoal tablets that are used for poisoning, hydrogen peroxide, blanket and a towel.

- **Toys** – If you don't want to wake up one day with your pet puppy enthusiastically gnawing on your furniture or expensive pair of shoes, you need to provide him with several sturdy chew toys. This will help divert

their pent up energy and at the same time provide relief when your puppy will be cutting teeth.

Dog Feeding Tips

Among the most important things to remember when having dogs in the house is to always have fresh and clean water at your pet can access at all times. About 70 percent of the dogs body is made up of water and plays a major role in cell function and the lubrication of tissues. . While dogs can practically live without food for several days, lack of water will immediately cause death.

When purchasing food, carefully read the labels and look out for the word 'complete and balanced' along with at least 80 percent digestibility. There have been a number of debates whether to its advisable to fed them with table scraps or not. There's actually no harm to be if only on certain occasions. Otherwise, it is considered highly unhealthy to keep as their regular diet. If you are at a loss with whether to choose dry food or canned ones, you can actually combine the two or alternate it to provide your pet some variety.

You may not know it, but puppies and babies actually have a lot in common – both need a round-the-clock care and require regular schedules. Since puppies grow quickly, you need to feed them three times a day, to provide them enough sustenance for their growing up stage. Its not a good idea to leave out food at all times as this will not promote proper eating habits. To enforce disciple, provide food only during mealtime, and take it out it your pet refuses to eat. That way, he will be trained to follow feeding hours rather than dallying on food.

Potty-Training

Consistency plays a big role in shaping up your pets toilet habits. If it's already housebroken, then establish the exact time of day you will take him out to eliminate. Praise and give rewards if he is able to follow this routine. However, expect some minor slip – ups, as puppies don't have complete bladder control up until they reach six months. So be extra patient and understanding. Physical activities are also known to stimulate elimination of waste, so after playing or eating, don't forget to take him out to attend to his nature's call.

Grooming and Bathing

Maintaining proper canine hygiene is highly important to keep your pet healthy and happy. This means trimmed nails, well-groomed furs, clear eyes and teeth and of course great smells.

- Coat care – regular brushing is needed to prevent the fur from matting. A matted fur only pulls and cause inflammation to your pet's sensitive skin and can be very painful to remove. That is why its very important to regularly brush the fur to properly distribute the oil in the skin, stimulate circulation and take out dead hairs. Among the highly recommended toll would be the fine-toothed metal combs that can easily work out tangles. With regular brushing, you can be sure to maintain the natural luster and healthy looking dog coat. For best results, be sure to use downward strokes and use some spray on conditioner to smoothen fur but down the static electricity as well as accidentally breaking hairs.

- Pedicure – your pet needs regular foot check ups since walking barefoot can make them more prone to puncture and wounds that can lead to more health complications in the future. For small cuts, soaking the feet in warm water will somehow dull the pain along with application of antibiotic creams. If your pet has accidentally stepped on something gooey, apply peanut butter or margarine to efficiently work it off.

Nail trimmers are also a great necessity for pet care and to also safeguard your property. Ingrown nails can be very painful will accidentally snagged or broken. It may take a while to perfect nail trimming, the trick is to trim nails while your pooch is sleeping and on a bright light to make it more easier for you.

- Bathing – while most puppies will probably show some resistance with n taken to bath, the earlier to make them accustom to regular bathing sessions, the easier it will be for you. It's important to have everything you need before starting, also use some rubber mats if you will be bathing your pet on the sink to avoid slipping. Place cotton balls snugly on his ears to prevent soap and water from getting in. Some people have observed that it's talking to your pet while bathing can some put them at ease. Do it as quickly and thoroughly as you can, then rub briskly with a dry towel.

If you want to use the blow dryer, make sure to will not place it too close to the skin that may cause minor burns. Just carefully use the warm setting and comb the fur while you blow dry.

Dog-Proofing Your Home

You might as well know, its not only cats that were born with innate curiosity and inquisitiveness, but also dogs. Letting your pet freely roam around the house without taking any precautionary measures would be a perfect recipe for disaster. Since dogs have naturally sensitive noses, they can go sniffing around and unerringly locate intriguing and possibly dangerous substances. So eye for some potential dangers that are well within your pet's reach such as plants, pills, hazardous chemicals that can pose threats to the eye or even to their lives. Poisons and rat baits are common culprits in pet poisoning when some owners are to negligent to leave them lying around. Such irresponsibility can possibly cost the life of your pet and unknown heartbreak to family members.

There are some dogs that have taken a liking to chewing plants and grass, If you have many ornamental plants around the house, you might never know that there are some house plants that can possibly some real threats to your pet's like. Harmful houseplants include: some flowers and shrubs, philodendron and caladium, wisteria, jasmine, hydrangea, ligustrum, azaleas should be kept out of your pet's reach.

There are also some food products that one would never thought to pose any grave danger to pooches, take for example chocolates – you would never have guessed this can trigger serious bout of sickness in dogs, right? Macadamia nuts are also considered poisonous to some dog breeds; with 12 hours after ingestion some dogs have been known to vomit, experience body tremors, fever and weakness. So carefully watch out what you feed your dog and what things that you shouldn't leave laying around. As a responsible dog owner, you need to keep

all hazardous substances and equipments out of reach to deftly avoid accidents and health complications.

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