



## Preparing for Your Puppy's Arrival Home

1. Buy a two-door wire crate with a divider
  - We highly recommend crate-training.
  - The wire crate will help with potty training. Your puppy will have been exposed to sleeping in a crate up to one week prior to coming home.
  - **Midwest Life Stages Double Door Folding Crate** (or similar type)
    - i. I recommend **Medium-Large to Large size** which will hold a full grown dog of up to 50#-55# and your puppy will grow into 20" to 22" tall at the shoulders.  
36"L x 24"W x 27"H  
42"L x 28"W x 31"H
2. Evaluate training options in your area
  - Look into Baxter & Bella Online training. We have personally used this program and found it quite valuable. Using the code "RRD", you can get this lifetime training program for \$178. The format is webinar, podcast and live training and can and should be started prior to bringing your puppy home. They have an excellent "puppy proofing" webinar and "discussing responsibilities of pets with children."
  - If online isn't your thing, check into local training options. Group classes can begin around 4 months of age, after all shots including rabies are completed.
3. Make your vet appointment
  - Puppies should have an initial veterinarian visit within 3 business days of bringing your puppy home. Your puppy will have been seen at 7 weeks for initial shots, stool sample and microchip placement
  - A copy of your puppy's health records will be provided to you along with their microchip information.
4. Activate your Trupanion pet insurance GO HOME DAY will be provided at pickup
  - Activate your offer within 24 hours (before or after) of bringing your puppy home.
  - Your GO HOME DAY OFFER includes:
    - i. immediate coverage- waived waiting periods!
    - ii. 30 days coverage with no upfront payment
5. Dog Food
  - Your puppy will have been on a high-quality puppy food. We recommend waiting until 1 week prior to pickup to confirm the brand selected with this litter.
6. Toys & Puzzles
  - All RRD puppies have been exposed to critical thinking skills and puzzles at age-appropriate times.

- We love Kong, Outward Hound, NylaBones and Rope toys.
- Lickmats and snufflemats are great tools for keeping puppies busy and their minds engaged. Puzzle toys like the Bob-a-lot and Nina Ottosson toys by Outward Hound are great for developing critical thinking skills.
- Keep your puppies busy so they don't become destructive. I generally recommend they have only 1-2 toys at a time and switch out to keep them "fresh".

#### 7. Training Treats

- My recommendation is to only use kibble for training at least for the first 3 -4 months. Puppy tummies are delicate and they have only been eating kibble. Diarrhea is very common with any change in food or water sources.

#### 8. Food & Water Bowls

- We recommend a heavier bowl with a skid-free bottom.
- Your puppy will have no "table manners" when they get home as they have been eating in a trough with all the other puppies competing for food. Be sure to have them "sit and wait" before putting their bowl on the floor.
- Occasionally, a puppy will scarf their food. Slow-feeder bowls can be helpful but are not necessary.

#### 9. ID Tag & Leash

- Once you have a name selected, share with me so we can begin calling your puppy by name.
- A 6 foot leash is recommended. Please note that your puppy will not have been exposed to walking on a leash when they come home. Please ask for recommendations on how to prepare your puppy for leash walking.
- Your puppy will come home with a small collar that fits him/her. If you wish to provide your own collar, please let me know and bring to pick up so that I can appropriately size it to fit.

#### 10. Grooming Necessities

- Regular at-home and professional grooming is critical to coat health and your puppy's tolerance to grooming products.
- Slicker brush.
  - i. I highly recommend the Le Pooches Slicker brush size medium \$\$\$, or
  - ii. Chris Christensen slicker brush \$\$.
- Stainless steel dog comb
- Shampoo, Conditioner, Detangler, etc. I recently was introduced to The Distinguished Doodle line of grooming products made for the labradoodle coat. I was quite impressed with the softness of the coat following use. You can order their products at [www.thedistinguisheddoodle.com](http://www.thedistinguisheddoodle.com).
- Your puppy should not go to a groomer until they are fully vaccinated at 16 weeks of age and have Bordetella.
- We will provide you with the ALAA recommended Grooming card and provide guidance as needed.