

## Getting Ready For Your New Puppy - Check List

When buying a puppy, you need to think it through very carefully. Almost just like if you adopt a child, you need to be ready to commit and be responsible to your new puppy for the rest of its life; acknowledging that having a dog in your life will change your life, and how you live going forward on a daily basis. You will be responsible for taking proper care of your dog's every need in a timely manner, and for your dog's actions with respect to your community.

The first thing you should do before picking up your new puppy is to make a veterinarian appointment. You want to make sure of your new puppy is healthy with no issues and you understand its vaccination schedule. Next, it is important to be prepared at your home before the arrival of your new puppy.

### Here are some items we recommend you purchase ahead of time:

- ✓ Getting the right crate is important for your puppy. A crate that is 36"Lx23"Wx24"H is good for an adult 50 to 80 pound 1-year+ female Labrador Retriever, and a 42"Lx28"W x30"H for a typical 75 to potentially 95-pound full grown male. We suggest you buy a crate that has 2 doors (front & side) for versatility, that is collapsible or folds up to make it easier to transport or store when not in use. It should also come with a removable divider so you can start your puppy out with a smaller living area, then later as they grow, you can remove it. However, if you want to use it in a more formal setting, there are several crates that look like furniture that will work well.



- ✓ Pickup a large bag of **Purina Pro Plan Puppy Chow**. This is the best food for the first year. Your puppy should be fed 1½ cups 3-times a day for the first 5 to 6 months, and then 2 ½ cups twice a day – in the morning and in the evening until 1-year old. YFL will provide you with the proper size scoop when you purchase one of our puppies! At a year old, change the food to **Adult Large Dog Purina Pro Plan Chow** (or ingredient equivalent).



- ✓ You will find it useful to get a large plastic sealable food container. They range from 25 lbs. to 50 lbs. of storage capacity and come on wheels.



- ✓ A good suggestion is a **“slow-eat” food bowl** that has ridges in it. This will stop the gulping. It will improve digestion, reduce gassiness, vomiting from eating too fast, and allow them to enjoy the meal more.



- ✓ Get a **“gravity fill water bowl”**. Buy one and will be doing yourself and your puppy a favor. You don’t want to continually be filling a small water bowl and your dog does not want to find an empty one. Also get a mat for under it to catch the spillage.



- ✓ A soft **dog bed** or two that are sized to fit your puppy when it is an adult. A good idea is to get one that has a zipper to remove the stuffing and is cleanable. Elevated canvas beds also work well both indoors and outdoors. You should not let your puppy on the furniture if you want the furniture to stay clean. Their bed is their “place” to be comfortable.



- ✓ Buy a couple **play chew toys** (not rawhide that can be eaten or potentially lodge in their stomach, nor stuffed animals that can be destroyed, nor squeaky toys that can come apart). Good options are rope toys, hard rubber or Kong toys, and balls they can grab but not swallow. Old socks knotted into a large ball is a fun toy. Toys are something to give your puppy to help it learn what is theirs and safe to touch, versus the other things that might be fun to pick up around the house. Lovingly help your puppy learn what it can and cannot chew or play with. Toys also will give them something to do when board or carry around.

- ✓ Your puppy will need a **flat colorful collar** for around the home with its name tag and rabies tag. This is also important in case your puppy gets out or runs-off. (You will buy more as your puppy grows.) It should be loose, but not be able to slip over its head. While YFL places an identification chip in your puppy it does not track it. Something that is becoming popular and not too expensive, are “Airtag Collars” that will help you locate your puppy if lost. Something to consider.

- ✓ A **Martingale collar or Chain collar** are a great way to manage and handle your puppy/dog when on a walk. These collars tighten when the dog pulls. A Martingale is adjustable to tighten only so much and needs to be properly sized to be useful in stopping “pulling”. A Chain collar will tighten until the pulling stops. I prefer this style. 4 to 6 inches bigger than their neck is perfect. When the dog is familiar with its chain collar, just a slight jiggle and it will know you want it to come-back to the proper position next to you.



- ✓ A **short leash (4’ or 6’)** (or “lead”) that will securely clip to the Martingale or Chain collar is great for walking. A “climbing cord slip lead” that combines a leash and walking collar is also very good. Never buy or use a harness with your dog, which simply teaches your dog to pull you or test its boundary limits continually; not allowing you the control and gives the dog no reason to stop pulling you or lunging. Retractable leashes aren’t much better or are even worse. You don’t want your dog hit by a car.



- ✓ You may want to purchase various **dog gates** for restricting stair access or to coordinate off rooms.
- ✓ You may want items for **car safety** such as a separate travel crate for the car, a divider to separate access to the front seat, or a seat-built harness.
- ✓ You will need doggy “poop” bags for those walks, too.

**Puppy Training Equipment (if Yates Family Labradors is not working with you on the training):**

- ✓ A **Clicker** is most common tool used with puppy training as a Marker noise with treats when your puppy does something correctly. YFL will provide you one with one of our puppies.
- ✓ **Treat bag** for having a treat ready to give when your puppy does something correctly.
- ✓ **Long (15'/30') leash** for training.
- ✓ Lots and Lots of “**training treats**” (soft and small ones bought at the pet store, Target, Walmart, or just diced hot dogs). Sometimes their food works but high-value small special treats work best.