

## **Food and Treats**

### **Puppy Food:**

Your puppy is currently on Nutro Ultra Puppy. A transition bag of food has been provided in your puppy goodie bag. If switching foods, please do so gradually over a course of 5-7 days (75% old / 25% new, then 50%/50%, then 25%/75%) to avoid an upset tummy.

**NOTE:** Puppies should eat 3x day until ~6 mths old. They are growing fast and need to keep sugar/energy levels up to sustain their metabolism and growth rate.

### **Food & Water Bowls:**

Stainless steel or ceramic is best as it doesn't breed bacteria in scratches, like plastic bowls do.

We really love our water dispensing bowls that carry at least ½ gal of water.

**Food & Water Mat** – this keeps spillage in a contained area and provides easy cleaning

### **Chewing & Training Treats**

Young puppies desire to chew when teething, but they are not ready for very hard chew bones and tough chew toys. I really love the Nylabone Puppy Chews, the natural chew sticks, pig ears or horns, the Puppy Kong Toy with peanut butter in the center, and rope toys.

I always find "training treats" overpriced, so I rarely buy them, even though they can be convenient. My favorite is to buy treats from Costco that are soft, and then break them into small size pieces. I also use puppy kibble or even chicken that I've shredded to small pieces.

### **Food Storage Container & Scoop**

## **Containment and Bedding**

### **Crate/Kennel:**

I've used the wire crates as I liked how they had the adjustable divider and the removable pans. However, I've been woken up twice from a screaming pup that got themselves stuck between the wires and it's a terrifying experience! I'm lucky it was at night and not while we were out, and thankfully both pups were not injured.

After research, I realized this is a common problem with wire crates and puppies have been injured badly. Hence I recommend getting a hard sided kennel for kennel training your pup during the night, while you leave your home, or while you are unable to watch the pup.

### **Crate Pad/Blanket:**

It's best to look for waterproof bedding. Purchase 2-3 or more for when they are soiled and need laundering.

### **Gate/Playpen:**

Consider getting a baby gate to off-limits sections of your home (like areas with carpet).

A puppy playpen is also a great idea to offer room for your pup to stretch and play in an enclosed area when you are unable to keep a close eye.

### **Bedding:**

A dog bed is very beneficial in helping to preventing hip dysplasia. Make sure that the cover is removable as they definitely need laundering regularly.

**NOTE:** a great idea is to purchase a baby crib mattress with a few fitted sheets. They are waterproof, pet friendly, and are less likely to be destroyed unlike the foam/stuffed dog beds.

## **Toys**

Plush toys, squeaky toys, and crinkling toys are favorites. Rope toys and rubber balls (last longer than tennis balls and have great bounce) are a must too!

## **Walking and Safety**

### **Collar:**

We prefer the Blueberry Pet collars on Amazon. They are durable, waterproof, many are reflective, and there are several color/patterns to choose from. Although tempting, please don't bring your new puppy into the store to try-on collars as young puppies are not immune to fatal dog diseases yet.

### **Dog Harness:**

I always look for one that has a good gripping handle on the back to ensure the best control, is fully adjustable, and padded for comfort.

### **Leash:**

I really love the 6' leashes that have the padded double grip (one near the clip & one at the end). This provides comfort and a good range of control for standard size dogs. For minis, single handle works great.

While training, stick with the 6' dog leashes to maintain the most control. Flexi-leashes and hands-free are great for dogs that have completed their leash walking training and no longer pull and obey commands to heel/come/wait/etc.

**ID Tag** - Always make sure your dog is tagged with your phone number at minimum, even though they are microchipped

### **GPS Tracker:**

A lost dog is such an incredible stressful event. We are just starting to play with Non-GPS Trackers by using a Samsung SmartTag and the Apple AirTag with collar attachment. There are tons of options on the market though.

### **Poop Bags & Storage Holder**

## **Potty Training and Cleaning Supplies**

### **Litter Tray & Pellets**

Puppies come litter trained; continuing to supply a litter box provides 'training wheels' and less accidents while formally house training. We use a washing machine drip pan that is sold at Hardware stores as the pan, and wood pellets/alpha pellets as the litter. You can find the premium (wood only) fuel pellets at home improvement stores as alpha pellets at pet stores selling equine (horse) supplies.

### **Floor & Furniture Cleaner**

Folex Instant Carpet Spot Remover (Available at grocery and home improvement stores)

Nature's Miracle Urine Destroyer Plus (Available at Pet Stores) – remove urine smell on floor/furniture

**Laundry Booster** - OXI-Clean (Available at grocery stores) takes out tough organic odors and stains

### **Pooper Scooper & Bucket**

## **Grooming Supplies**

**Brushes:** slicker brush, dematting comb, & hairbrush

**Nail Clippers & Scissor Kit** - for in between grooming appointments

**Bluing Shampoo** – highly recommend for white and/or black dogs.