

Must Haves for New Dogs: Shopping List

- 'Before You Get Your Puppy' and 'After You Get Your Puppy': **books by Dr Ian Dunbar**. You can download 'Before' for free so there are no excuses! (Ask me for details) Although geared towards puppy care these books are suitable for preparing for and coping with a new dog of any age.
- **Crate** that fits your dog snugly. If you have a large breed puppy get an additional divider panel to increase the space that your puppy has within the crate as he grows.
- **Suitable bedding** – remember that puppies and many adult dogs like to chew and destroy bedding so don't buy anything too expensive. A couple of pieces of 'VetBed' are most suitable as it is hard wearing and machine washable.
- **Puppy Pen** – collapsible puppy pens are indispensable for use as a long term confinement for your puppy which should contain your puppy's crate, toileting area, toys and water bowl. If your new dog is too big or strong for a puppy pen use child gates to confine your dog to a safe area.
- **Bowls** for water (ideally stainless steel) and a small one for food. Although most of your puppy's food will be fed via enrichment toys or as rewards for good behaviour, we will do some work on resource guarding with a food bowl.
- **Kibble** of high quality. When you first get your puppy or dog make sure to get some food that the puppy has been weaned on or that which the dog has been previously fed. Continue feeding this or slowly wean your puppy or dog onto another feed. Measure out your puppy or dog's daily rations and use this to reward good behaviour or to stuff enrichment toys.
- **Treats** are important to reward good behaviour and to be used in situations that require a little more 'persuasion'. You will get to know what is most rewarding to your individual dog and these high value treats can be used when in a particularly distracting situation or for extra good behaviour. (We can discuss different types of healthy and homemade treats.)
- **Enrichment Toys** are one of the most vital additions to the shopping list. Have at least four or five different toys that can be stuffed and used to keep your puppy or dog occupied. Kong toys come in a wide range of styles to suit every puppy or dog.
- Plenty of **safe toys** that your puppy or dog can fetch, chase, chew, tear up etc.etc. and plenty of **edible chews** that will allow your puppy or dog to work off frustration and teethe on.
- **Collar, leash, front leading harness** and **identification tag**. Your new dog will have to learn how to wear training equipment and how to walk on leash.
- Suitable **grooming equipment** including the **correct brush, comb** and **nail clippers**. Although not all dogs appear to need much grooming all dogs should be handled regularly and groomed with a suitable brush and/or comb. I will advise you on suitable grooming equipment for your dog's breed, condition and coat type.

Remember to have all of this essential equipment prepared before bringing your dog home. Start off as you mean to continue so have house rules worked out be ready to enforce them from the word GO!