

New Pet Checklist

Schedule a Veterinary Exam

- First Exam:* Schedule appointment the first week you take your pet home.
- Vaccinations:* Discuss with your veterinarian the timeline for essential vaccines such as Distemper, Parvovirus, Bordetella, and Rabies.
- Deworming:* This is critical to eliminate intestinal parasites. Be sure to bring a fecal sample into your first veterinary exam. The veterinarian will help you decide an appropriate parasite control plan for your pet.
- Microchipping:* Make sure to get your pet microchipped and keep your contact information up-to-date [here](#). This is your pet's permanent ID that can help them return home safely and quickly if they were to get lost.
- Spay or Neuter:* Consult with your veterinarian the most appropriate time to spay or neuter your pet and get an appointment on the calendar.

Shop for Pet Supplies

- Food and Water Bowls:* Stainless steel bowls are extremely durable, bacteria-resistant and easy to care for. Check out a few of our favorites [here](#).
- Food:* There are a lot of options out there, so be sure to ask your veterinarian about the best food for your pet based on their age, size, and activity level. Be sure to keep their diet consistent and create a feeding routine. Sign up for our Online Pharmacy [here](#) for easy home delivery for your pet prescriptions and food.
- Collar:* Make sure to buy the appropriate size [collar](#) for your pet so that two fingers fit comfortably underneath and adjust the size as they get bigger.
- Interactive Toys:* Toys like [puzzles](#) and [food dispensers](#) keep your pet entertained and also add mental stimulation to help tire them out.
- Grooming Tools:* For pets that shed, we have seen great success with the [FURminator](#). [Nail trimming](#) is also necessary to your pet's grooming routine. To learn more about your specific breed's grooming needs, read [here](#).
- Toothbrush and toothpaste:* Watch [this how-to video](#) on brushing your pet's teeth. We also love [dental wipes!](#)

Pet-Proof Your House

- Electrical Cords:* Move electrical cords and breakables to higher ground. Block off any areas of the house that's off-limits with [pet or baby gates](#).
- Plants:* Block access to any house or garden plants that may be toxic to pets. Read [here](#) for a full list of toxic and non-toxic plants.

Pet Insurance

- Pet Insurance:* Make sure your pet is signed up for insurance to help cover the cost of any unexpected emergencies from puppyhood to senior age. Ask our staff about how to receive 10% off [Petplan](#) pet insurance!

Puppy Training

- Potty Training:* This is one of the most important first steps to ensure a happy life together with your new pet. Do some [research](#) in advance and decide what tactics will work best for your own situation.
- Basic Commands:* Start off on the right paw with your pet by teaching these [5 Basic Commands](#) as the foundation of your training.
- Socialization:* It's important to [socialize puppies](#) and we recommend signing up for puppy classes as soon as possible. Most classes will take puppies as soon as 12 weeks, as long as they are up-to-date on vaccines. The ideal time for socialization is 8–16 weeks.