

Basic Supplies Needed for Your New Puppy

By Deb Orwig

Water Bowl, preferably stainless steel or ceramic

Food Bowl, preferably stainless steel or ceramic

Food: We recommend using puppy food until the dog is at least 6 months old and feed three times a day as much as the puppy will eat in 15 minutes. I put warm water on the dry kibble and let it sit for 5-10 minutes. Pick up any remaining food and refrigerate until the next meal. I would start out with 1 cup three times a day and if the puppy finishes that amount quickly, give the puppy more. Sometimes the puppies will eat as much as two cups at any one meal. If you want to switch food brands, do it very gradually to reduce the possibility of gastric distress. Start with 3/4 of the old food and 1/4 of the new food and use that mixture for a week; then do 1/2 and 1/2 for a week; then 1/4 of the old food plus 3/4 of the new food; then after a week you can go to all new food. NOTE: I started puppies on Costco's Kirkland brand Puppy food (chicken and pea formula) when they were 5-6 weeks old.

Toys that are good for teething and for general play

Nail clipper (guillotine style as shown in Ryan's online catalog

<http://www.ryanspet.com/paw-brothers-nail-clippers-large-pz-TM31501.html> or a grinder

<http://www.ryanspet.com/search.aspx?criteria=nail%20grinder>

Brush and comb

Furminator -- highly recommended for a Golden Retriever.

Dog shampoo -- I use Ryan's Pet Supply Desert Sudz Desert Orange; only use a shampoo specifically made for dogs (human shampoo has the wrong pH for a dog)

Poop scooper

Trash can with closable lid and trash can liners – Bed, Bath & Beyond carries a good size (15 gallon) with a foot pedal

Puppy Pee Pads – Costco has these at a good price – you may or may not need these

Nature's Miracle or some other similar brand like Zero Odor for accident clean-ups

Heartgard® -- 12-week-old puppies will have had one chew; you will be provided with 1 more Heartgard chew then will have to monitor the puppy's weight to determine the dosage for subsequent months

Optional:

Crate -- strongly recommended

Bed

Raised feeding stand, preferably one that can be adjusted in height as puppy grows

Dog Door – Hale Pet Doors are the best

The best place to purchase supplies such as those listed above is Ryan's Pet Supply. They carry anything and everything you could possibly want for a dog except food. Check out their website: <http://www.ryanspet.com/> They are located at 1805 E McDowell Rd., Phoenix, and are open M-F from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm (not open on weekends). You will pay 1/3 to 1/2 what PetSmart or Petco charges for the same items. They accept all major credit cards.