

First Week Home Checklist

For: Dog — Day-by-day settle-in tasks so the first week feels calm instead of chaotic.

Pet's name: _____

Date home: _____

BEFORE THEY ARRIVE

- ☐ Set up a crate or designated sleep space in a quiet corner
- ☐ Pick up food and water bowls and place them in one steady spot
- ☐ Buy a few days of their current food to avoid a sudden diet change
- ☐ Set a house rule list with everyone in the household (furniture, feeding, doors)

DAY 1

- ☐ Keep the first car ride and arrival calm and low-key
- ☐ Show them the water bowl and a quiet resting spot right away
- ☐ Take them out to the same potty spot often, and praise calmly when they go
- ☐ Skip the welcome party — let visitors wait a few days

DAYS 2–3

- ☐ Start a simple feeding and potty schedule and stick to it
- ☐ Begin short, positive name and hand-target training sessions
- ☐ Note any sniffing, hiding, or clinginess — settling in looks different for every dog

DAYS 4–7

- ☐ Introduce one new person or short outing at a time
- ☐ Book their first vet visit if it isn't already scheduled
- ☐ Start loose-leash walks in a quiet area before busier streets
- ☐ Begin crate or alone-time practice in very short sessions

New Pet Supply Shopping List

For: Dog — Everything to have ready before, or right after, pickup day.

Pet's name: _____

Date home: _____

FEEDING

- ☐ Food and water bowls
- ☐ A few days' supply of their current food
- ☐ Treats for training
- ☐ A slow feeder if they eat quickly

SLEEPING & CONTAINMENT

- ☐ Crate or dog bed sized for them
- ☐ Baby gate or exercise pen if needed
- ☐ Blanket or crate pad

WALKING & ID

- ☐ Well-fitted collar or harness
- ☐ Leash
- ☐ ID tag with a current phone number
- ☐ Microchip registration confirmed and up to date

EVERYDAY CARE

- ☐ Poop bags
- ☐ Brush suited to their coat
- ☐ Nail trimmer or grinder
- ☐ Enzymatic cleaner for accidents
- ☐ A few safe chew toys

First Vet Visit Prep Sheet

For: Dog — What to bring and what to ask at their first checkup.

Pet's name: _____

Date home: _____

BRING WITH YOU

- ☐ Any records from a shelter, rescue, or breeder
- ☐ A stool sample if your vet's office asks for one
- ☐ A list of any behaviors or symptoms you've noticed

QUESTIONS TO ASK

- ☐ What vaccines are due now, and what's the schedule going forward?
- ☐ Is a parasite or heartworm test needed?
- ☐ What food and feeding amount do you recommend for their age and weight?
- ☐ When should we talk about spay or neuter timing?
- ☐ What's the plan for flea, tick, and heartworm prevention?

BRING HOME

- ☐ A written copy of their vaccine and treatment record
- ☐ Next appointment date
- ☐ Any prescribed medication with clear dosing instructions

Home Safety Checklist

For: Dog — A room-by-room pass to make your home safer before they arrive.

Pet's name: _____

Date home: _____

KITCHEN

- ☐ Store xylitol, chocolate, onions, and grapes out of reach
- ☐ Secure the trash can with a locking lid
- ☐ Tuck away dish towels and anything dangling from counters

LIVING AREAS

- ☐ Tape or hide loose cords and cables
- ☐ Move small chewable objects and remotes up and out of reach
- ☐ Check houseplants against a pet-safe plant list
- ☐ Secure bookshelves or furniture that could tip

BATHROOM & LAUNDRY

- ☐ Keep the toilet lid down and medications in a closed cabinet
- ☐ Store cleaning supplies and detergent pods on a high shelf
- ☐ Keep the laundry hamper (socks, elastic) out of reach

YARD & EXITS

- ☐ Walk the fence line for gaps or digging spots
- ☐ Check the gate latch works and is visible to guests
- ☐ Remove or fence off toxic plants, mulch, or fertilizer