

~ RunAmok Puppy Essentials ~

INTERIOR PUPPY EXERCISE [CONFINEMENT!] PEN:

These come in a variety of sizes, materials and styles, and can be purchased in pet stores, feed stores, or online -- some companies, like "Upco", will even deliver to your door at no additional charge!

These pens are not necessarily a "must have" item, but we list this item first as it will help you start your puppy off "right" and will be one of your best aids while house-training your new little one. *In other words, you and your puppy will survive without one... but your life will be more peaceful with one!

We recommend a 4 - 5 foot high, 8-10 panel puppy pen. Depending upon your needs, a puppy exercise pen can be positioned in a variety of shapes and angles (round, square, rectangle, even L-shaped!) and will keep your puppy safe and out of trouble while you are busy! They can be used outside (with stakes), as well as indoors. For house-training, we usually place them on a hard, easy to clean flooring (linoleum/wood) and then place their crate, food/water bowls, and a couple toys inside the pen.

EXTERIOR WELDED WIRE PEN:

These are rather expensive... but worth their weight in gold. A 10X10 or larger welded wire kennel system will provide a safe place for your puppy outside while you are away. Puppy has plenty of room to run, shelter, can freely go potty when it feels the need, and is safe from other dogs and animals which might come into your yard. Absolutely a "win-win", across the board. These are not just a "puppy item", but a life-saver even for adult dogs!

CRATE:

How big and what kind?! What you need honestly depends on how much traveling you intend to do. The plastic, airline-approved crates, such as the "Petmate Vari Kennel" are the most versatile for our needs... Of course, when we "travel", we do it with the whole crew, so we like crates that we can easily load up in our pickup or in the back of our horse trailer.

For pick-up use, crates are wonderful for summer trips, as the dogs get a cool breeze, are shaded, and don't have to be tied in. Plastic is smooth, easy to clean and can be washed or bleached as needed.

The metal indoor crates take a bit more work to clean, and most brands are not nearly as convenient for travel, however, they are rather stylish and can be a nice choice if you only intend to leave them inside your home.

Whichever you choose, we definitely recommend continuing the crate-training we have started! *If you are shipping your puppy, he/she will arrive in a smaller, airline-approved shipping crate as described above. This will fit your puppy for a short time, but you will need to upgrade to a larger sizing if you wish to continue training to adulthood.

If you are meeting with us, you are welcome to purchase your puppy's new crate directly from us, as we begin crate-training at around 7 weeks - Going home in the crate they already consider their "bed" can help them feel more secure while transitioning from our home to

yours.

BEDDING:

You can spend a lot of money on cute puppy blankets and padded beds... while these things can be “fun” and make you feel happy, the price adds up quickly... and with typical puppy messes, exuberant play, chewing, and tug-of-war these expensive blankets can be a waste of money on young puppies.

We tend to be more practical; Nice, medium-quality bath towels are what we purchase and use for our puppy crates. Towels are “hardy” – made to be washed and dried frequently - and they are very inexpensive compared to specialized puppy blankets. Puppy bedding should be washed every few days, so we suggest saving your money and going with “practical”.

BOWL & WATER DISH:

The types of feeding bowls you use are important! As with puppy blankets, we can get caught up with the cute designs we see on plastic and ceramic bowls. Though fun, these are really *not* a good choice.

There is the obvious issue of chewing and possibly ingesting sharp chunks of plastic; ceramic bowls can be broken and cause injuries as well. A puppy can also develop an allergy to the plastic – which results in itchy, weepy sores around its mouth and nose! Many ceramic bowls are made in foreign countries and contain lead in the glaze used to decorate them. Toxic metals can cause poisoning!

It is best to purchase a set of stainless steel bowls for both food and water. These do not have to be expensive - usually a decent set can be found for under \$15. A stainless set will last much longer - if the puppies or kids don't take off with them!

SHAMPOO & CONDITIONER:

Remember that a naturally-reared puppy (eating species-appropriate foods) typically will not “smell” like kibble fed dogs. In fact, raw-fed dogs have very little odor at all, so with the exception of potty accidents or muddy playtime, it will not be necessary to shampoo your puppy often.

Most pet shampoos are quite expensive, so we have found alternatives. For the price, NuVet Labs puppy shampoo & conditioner line is *quite* good - and one bottle lasts a long time; a “tearless” formula which removes odors, is PH balanced, biodegradable and is detergent and soap free - it also comes in a large, 17 oz bottle! The product # is NV-1910 and you can order it when you place your NuVet order if you would like.

If you would prefer to avoid products like this altogether, or only rely on them when your puppy is really dirty, you can also gently wash your pup with a simple wet baking soda paste, rinsing thoroughly with clear, warm water. Follow with a rinse of diluted ACV; 1 cup Apple Cider to a gallon of warm water, and then follow with a clear, warm water rinse. *Puppy will not smell like vinegar after dry.

BRUSHES:

We use two different kinds for “serious” grooming! One is the typical pet brush with the plastic bristles on one side and the metal “slicker” bristles on the other. The other

"brush" is called an "undercoat rake" and is fabulous for getting all the shedding undercoat stripped out. If you plan for an extra-special grooming session, you will also need regular hair-cutting scissors or clippers for trimming around ears and paws.

The following site will teach you how to groom your puppy like a show dog.

<http://www.sealevelaussies.com/groom/brushing.htm>

LEASH/COLLAR:

We believe in starting a puppy's training as soon as they come home. This does not mean one must follow rigorous training sessions every day – but the basics are readily teachable to very young puppies, and for an exceptional, well-trained adult you will be proud of, we recommend starting young.

Improperly fitted collars can result in serious injury, open sores, infection, and death. If a collar is too loose, a puppy can get its lower jaw hooked under the collar and break its jaw, or even hook a front leg through the collar, creating a serious strangulation hazard! Likewise, you will need to check daily to ensure your puppy's collar is not becoming too tight, or causing raw spots around its neck. (This is where a quality collar is far better than a cheaper collar from a pet store.)

Extra precautions should be taken in multiple puppy homes as pups can get their teeth and/or legs hooked through collars during playtime, resulting in jaw injury, leg injury, and potentially killing the collared puppy.

Leather collars are a “classy”, comfortable option for older adolescents and adults, if they will not be spending much time in the rain or swimming. Honestly, while any simple, well-fitted collar should work well, we prefer to upgrade a bit and buy *extraordinary* collars – because the extra few dollars is worth the craftsmanship and guarantee – even if chewed!

Lupine carries a myriad of outstanding colors and designs! You can purchase matching collars, leashes, harnesses and even key chains! A great, comfortable gift for your new puppy... and a bit of “fun” for yourself!

Whatever type of collar you choose, make sure it fits correctly as the puppy matures.

NUVET PLUS

This has been covered several times, so just a quick note. NuVet Plus can be purchased directly from NuVet Lab at 800-474-7044. The product you are looking for is “NuVet Plus”, and the product code is #96777. You may also purchase online here: [NuVet Lab](#)

AMBERTECH NUTRACEUTICALS:

While AmberTech has some *amazing* products that we recommend, we consider “Parvaid” & “Vibactra Plus” as true *essentials* for your puppy first aid kit. We have included detailed information on our Ready-Set-Go page. If you wish to order products, we can drop-ship to your home before your puppy arrives.

FLEA & TICK CONTROL:

We are really not crazy about putting *poisons* on our dogs for flea & tick control, especially the monthly applications. Healthy dogs don't seem to attract fleas or ticks, except for the

occasional straggler, so we can be pretty lenient about our practices.

With proper feeding practices, most healthy dogs do not attract parasites in the way unhealthy dogs do. A malnourished or sickly animal will become run-down and overwhelmed very quickly by parasites, but this is not the case with very healthy animals. Parasites take advantage of the weak, and though they won't turn down a "meal" on a healthy animal, they don't seem to congregate like they do on an already compromised one.

That should pretty well cover the basic supplies!
If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email.

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