



Two Feet *Four* Paws

PET SUPPLIES

The New Puppy *Checklist*

What to buy before they come home, what can wait, and the things
almost everyone wastes money on.

Buy less than you think you need

Most new owners spend heavily in the first fortnight and then quietly replace half of it. Puppies grow fast, chew indiscriminately, and have opinions you cannot predict. The sensible approach is to buy properly for the things that matter on day one, and wait on everything else until your dog tells you what it actually needs.

This checklist splits the first two months into three honest buckets.

BUY NOW

Before they come home. Roughly ten things. Without these, the first night is harder than it needs to be for both of you.

BUY SOON

The first two weeks. Once you have seen how your puppy eats, sleeps, chews and settles, these purchases become obvious rather than speculative.

BUY LATER

Weeks three to eight. Walking, travel and grooming kit. Most of it is pointless before the second vaccination clears them for the outside world.

One rule worth following. Where you are choosing between a cheap version and a good version, spend the money on the things that touch your dog every single day: the bowl, the bed, the collar, the lead. Spend nothing on novelty. A puppy has never once been impressed by a costume.

Tick as you go. Nothing here is a product recommendation. It is what a UK dog owner genuinely needs, in the order they need it.

Before they come home

Have all of this in the house before you collect your puppy, not on the way back.

- ☐ **A crate, sized for the adult dog.** Buy for the size your breed will reach, and use a divider panel to shrink the usable space while they are small. Buying a small crate and upgrading later costs you twice.
- ☐ **Two washable beds or crate mats.** Two, not one. There will be accidents, and one always needs to be in the machine. Check it washes at 40 degrees.
- ☐ **Training pads.** Most puppies are not reliably clean until around sixteen weeks. Pads are a bridge, not a permanent solution.
- ☐ **Food and water bowls in stainless steel or ceramic.** Not plastic. Plastic scratches, holds bacteria in the grooves, and is a common cause of the chin irritation that owners mistake for acne.
- ☐ **The exact food the breeder was using.** Change it later if you want to, but change it gradually over seven to ten days. An abrupt switch on top of the stress of a new home is the fastest route to a week of diarrhoea.
- ☐ **A flat collar and an engraved ID tag.** Not optional. Under the Control of Dogs Order 1992, a dog in a public place must wear a collar showing the owner's name and address.
- ☐ **A simple fixed lead, four to six feet.** Not retractable. More on that later.
- ☐ **Poo bags.** You will use more than you expect. Look for genuine thickness rather than a printed leaf, and check the certification if compostability matters to you.
- ☐ **An enzymatic cleaner.** Enzymatic, specifically. Ammonia based cleaners smell like urine to a dog and will encourage them to go back to the same spot.
- ☐ **Two or three puppy safe chew toys.** Different textures. Teething is coming and it will find your skirting boards if it cannot find anything else.

Check before you collect: your puppy must be microchipped and registered before eight weeks of age. That is the breeder's legal responsibility, not yours, but you should confirm it has been done and get the paperwork.

The first two weeks

Now you know your dog a little. Buy for the puppy in front of you, not the one you imagined.

Practical

- ☐ **A harness, measured after the first growth spurt.** Measure the chest, do not guess from the breed. A harness bought in week one rarely fits by week four.
- ☐ **A lick mat.** The most underrated item on this list. Spread something soft across it and you have bought yourself fifteen quiet minutes for crate settling, nail trims, bath time or simply eating your own dinner in peace.
- ☐ **A slow feeder bowl, if they gulp.** Only if they gulp. Fast eating is uncomfortable, causes regurgitation, and in deep chested breeds is a genuine risk factor worth taking seriously.
- ☐ **A brush suited to the coat you actually have.** A slicker for curly and woolly coats. A bristle brush for short smooth coats. Double coated breeds need an undercoat tool, but not yet.

Health and admin

- ☐ **Register with a vet in the first week.** Do it before you need one.
- ☐ **Insurance, arranged early.** Anything that appears before the policy starts is a pre-existing condition, and will not be covered for the rest of your dog's life. This is the single most expensive mistake on this page.
- ☐ **Nail clippers or a grinder, plus a dog toothbrush and dog toothpaste.** Never human toothpaste. It commonly contains xylitol, which is toxic to dogs.
- ☐ **Update the microchip registration into your name.** The chip is useless if it still points to the breeder.

Start handling now, not later. Touch the paws, look in the ears, open the mouth, brush for thirty seconds a day even on a coat that does not need it. A puppy who thinks grooming is normal becomes an adult dog who does not need sedating for a nail trim.

BUCKET THREE

Weeks three to eight

Once the second vaccination has cleared them for the outside world, the kit changes.

- ☐ **A collapsible travel bowl or water bottle.** Puppies overheat quickly and tire faster than owners expect. Carry water from the first proper walk.
- ☐ **A car restraint: crate, harness or boot guard.** Rule 57 of the Highway Code requires dogs to be suitably restrained in a vehicle. An unrestrained dog can also invalidate a motor insurance claim.
- ☐ **A long line, five to ten metres.** The safe way to build recall before you trust them off lead. This is not the same thing as a retractable lead.
- ☐ **Small, soft training treats.** Pea sized. You will get through hundreds, and they need to count toward the daily food allowance or you will end up with a very well trained round dog.
- ☐ **A deshedding tool, once the adult coat arrives.** Usually somewhere between four and six months. Pointless before then, and using one on a puppy coat can irritate the skin.

BUCKET FOUR

What to *skip*

✗ Retractable leads

They teach a dog that pulling extends the lead, offer almost no control in an emergency, and the thin cord causes serious friction burns to hands and legs. Avoid.

✗ An expensive designer bed, bought early

Buy the beautiful bed once the chewing phase has passed. Not before.

✗ Rawhide

A well documented choking and intestinal blockage risk. There are safer chews.

✗ A basket of fifteen toys

Four or five, rotated weekly, holds a dog's interest far better than fifteen left permanently on the floor.

✗ Frequent bathing

Washing strips the coat's natural oils. Bathe a puppy when they are actually dirty, not on a schedule.



Quality without *compromise*

We started Two Feet Four Paws because the everyday things a dog needs are almost never made as well as they should be. The bowl that cracks. The bag that splits. The brush that lasts a season.

We are building a range of dog essentials designed to be used every day and to keep working. No novelty, no gimmicks, no breathless marketing.

You are on the list, which means you will hear about it before anyone else.

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