



Good Habits are Hard to Break

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Supplies you will need for your puppy or adult dog

•**Chew toys, chew toys, chew toys!** Select indestructible, hollow toys made of natural materials (rubber and bone; stay away from plastic, rope, and fabric) that you can stuff with food, such as Kongs, Big Kahunas, Squirrell Dudes, Buster Cubes, Molecule Balls, or natural bones, etc. You should have at least half a dozen to start.

•**A crate.** This should be well made and sturdy, with enough room for the dog or pup to stand up and turn around in, but not too much more. This will serve as a little “cave” or “nest” for the dog or puppy, and won’t be used for any long-term confinement. If your pup won’t soil or destroy it, you can put a soft liner on the floor of the crate so that it’s very comfortable.

•**A sturdy water bowl** with a heavy bottom. We suggest a spill-proof, weighted, stainless steel bowl. They are safe and easy to clean.

•**A flat collar** for everyday wear and to display I.D. tags, a non-slip (martingale) or head collar for walking (because dogs can slip out of flat collars), and a sturdy leash of no more than six feet. Extend-a-leashes can be quite dangerous and inadvertently train dogs to pull; therefore Open Paw does not recommend them.

•**A comfortable, sturdy bed to call his own.**

•**High-quality food.** Most commercially available dog food contains corn and wheat—a large percentage of dogs are allergic to corn and wheat and both grains have been implicated in contributing to hyperactivity. Buy a good quality dog food that is corn and wheat free at your local natural food or specialty pet food store. Some people now believe that a raw diet is the very healthiest food for your dog; various companies make frozen, raw diet foods that are available at some pet and health food stores.

•**High-value treats** for training, such as freeze-dried liver bits (break them up into small pieces), cheese, or other small, soft, palatable treats.

For Young Puppies, Also Get:

•**A large cat litter box** and sod/turf (if you will want the puppy to go to the bathroom on grass) or concrete pavers (if you live in the city and the puppy will go to the bathroom on concrete). (See our section on [long-term confinement](#) for more details.)

•**An exercise pen**, also known as an x-pen, (see our section on [long-term confinement](#) for more details). As an alternative you may use a small puppy proofed room such as a bathroom or laundry room--the smaller the better.

See Dr. Ian Dunbar’s book “Before You Get Your Puppy”, available at the Open Paw Store, to learn more about long-term confinement plans to facilitate housetraining.