



AUTUMN'S HOUSE OF GERMAN SHEPHERDS – NEW OWNER CHECKLIST

THINGS NEEDED PRIOR TO NEW PUPPY'S ARRIVAL

- Dog Bed.** A large or x-large dog bed with orthopedic support is best. GSDs are large dogs and need the added support for their joints. Purchase something that will take the puppy to adulthood.
- Large Dog Crate with Divider.** If you plan to crate train your dog, he/she should have enough clearance to lay down, sit, and turn around without being cramped or without his/her body touching the top, back or sides. 42.5 L x 28.5 W x 30.5 H or larger is best to accommodate your puppy up through adulthood.
- Disposable Puppy Training Pads.** Accidents happen and it is best to be prepared.
- Food and Water Bowls.** Stainless steel bowls don't harbor bacteria and germs like some plastic versions. You should wash your dog's water and food bowls daily.
- Leash and Collar.** Martingale collars are good training tools. [Blueberry Pet Essentials Safety Training Martingale Dog Collar](#) and [RC Pet 1-1/2-Inch All Webbing Martingale Dog Collar](#) are two good brands to get. They help with control and prevent breaking away or slipping out of the collar during walks. A 6-foot strong leash is also recommended and works best for large dogs. Avoid retractable leashes. I personally use the [Black Rhino Dog Leash - Heavy Duty with Two Traffic Padded Comfort Handles](#) or something similar for better control.
- Personalized ID TAG.** Once you have picked out a "Call Name" for your puppy, go ahead and order your collar ID tag. Tag should include pet's name, your phone number, address (optional) and your vet clinic information. I have been purchasing [LuckyPet Jewelry Collar Tag](#) for years. It is quiet, engraved, and attaches flat to the collar with a secure Velcro strap.
- Doggie Waste Bags with Portable Dispenser.** You can't have enough of these on hand. Having a dispenser that you can attach to the leash during walks helps you to remember to clean up behind your pet.
- Healthy Large Breed Puppy Food and Training Treats.** You should purchase the brand of food you plan to feed. We provide at least a 13-pound bag of premium large breed puppy food, which we are feeding at the time of pick up. This is enough to help you slowly transition to the new food over a 10-day period. A transition schedule is provided with your puppy folder. Never feed table scraps or cooked bones. It is not advisable to leave your pet unattended with any type of food or treat. Always supervise.

LATER PURCHASES

- Brush, De-shedding Tool, Dog Nail Clippers, Tearless Puppy Shampoo, Canine Toothpaste, Canine Ear Cleaning Solution, Large Cotton Balls, and Canine Toothbrush.**
Your puppy will be bathed prior to pick up. Avoid immersing the puppy in a tub of water until they are at least 3 months old. Bacteria can enter the urinary tract and may cause a UTI. If the puppy is soiled, it is best to use a hand-held shower device and let the water run over the puppy and use puppy shampoo. Avoid using human baby shampoo. The alkaline levels are too high for a dog's delicate skin and do more harm than good. Acclimate your puppy to tooth brushing, ear cleaning, and nail clipping early. Never use human toothpaste as it contains ingredients that are toxic to dogs.



- ❑ **Safe Toys.** Of course, you want to spoil your puppy and have fun in the process. Tug ropes are nice for bonding with your pet. Letting them win the game of tug-of-war also helps to build confidence. Put the rope away when you are finished. Don't let the puppy or dog chew on the rope as he/she may ingest portions of it. A large ball 4.5 inches in diameter or larger. Avoid tennis balls. Use the ball to play fetch and to bond. Softer toys are favorites of puppies. Choose toys made for aggressive chewers. A large Nylabone or Benebone will save your shoes and furniture. They are good during the teething phase. When the dog begins to tear off tiny pieces or toy is ripped, it is time to dispose of it and get a new one. Never leave you dog alone with any type of toy or chew toy. It is better to be safe than sorry.

SAFETY

- ❑ **Puppy Proof Your Home.** Puppies are like toddlers. They get into everything! Keep them safe indoors and outdoors. Always supervise and never leave your puppy outdoors alone. For the first couple weeks you can keep the puppy tethered to you with a 6-foot leash attached to your belt. It helps to set boundaries and keeps the puppy within ear and eye range. Elevate your plants. Some plants are toxic. Hide and cover electrical cords and outlets. Keep trash covered. Put away plastic bags and shoes. Move small object they could possibly choke on. Keep cleaning supplies and other toxins up high. Keep your floor clean and secure doors and windows. A toxic foods and plants list will be provided in your puppy folder. Teach kids it is not okay to share their food with the puppy. Accidental poisonings have happened.
- ❑ **Crating.** The crate should be a place of safety for your puppy. Properly introducing the crate to your new family member takes time and requires rewards. The crate should never be used as a place of punishment. If you must leave your dog alone and crated, remove the collar. Collars can get caught in the latch or on some other portion of the crate. This can become a safety hazard when no one is around. It is best to leave the dog in the crate without a collar. Avoid leaving treats and toys in the crate when unsupervised. Dogs are resilient creatures. They are eagerly awaiting your return and are not as bored as you think they are. Most of their time will be spent sleeping. If the dog shows signs of separation anxiety, a bare crate tray is safer than adding a cushioned pad, towel, or blanket. These items can be ripped and ingested by an anxious puppy.
- ❑ **Avoid exposure to other animals and public dog relief areas.** Puppies must be vaccinated multiple times and aren't considered protected until they receive all their boosters around 16 weeks of age. Highly contagious canine diseases such as **parvovirus** and **distemper virus** can be fatal due to the puppy's immature immune system. These viruses can be transmitted by exposing your puppy to a relief area used by an infected animal, exposure to an infected animal, and/or exposure to surfaces an infected animal may have contaminated. When bringing home your puppy, avoid stopping at public rest areas. Pick your puppy up and carry them into the vet's office. Avoid letting them walk directly on the ground or floor until they are fully vaccinated.
- ❑ **Emergency Evacuation Planning.** Too many times you see animals that have been left behind and abandoned when a disaster strikes. They are your family member too and you should have a plan in place for your fur baby in case of mandatory evacuations. There are countless organizations that have free checklists online to help you prepare for the worst. [Emergency Response Plan | Ready.gov](#) and [Disaster Preparedness Plan | Make a Plan | Red Cross](#) are just two. An animal emergency preparedness checklist is included in your puppy pack.