

Supplies and Toys for Dogs

Crate -- Either plastic or wire. Be sure to read the handout on crate training to determine what size crate your dog needs.

Food and Water Bowls -- Metal food bowls last longer and are easier to sanitize. Be sure to look for bowls that are not easily tipped. For water, you might consider a larger ceramic bowl or a “cooler” type water dispenser so that you don’t have to refill it as often.

Collar with ID Tag -- Either nylon or leather. Measure your dog’s neck for proper fit. Your rabies tag is provided by Alaqua, but you will need to order a separate ID tag. ID tags are available through mail order or online. Choke chains, prong collars, and head harnesses are meant to be used for training purposes on adult dogs only and should not be used as “everyday” collars.

Leash -- You’ll probably need two: a regular leash and a retractable leash. Use a regular leash in circumstances where you need a high degree of control over your dog – at the vet’s office, walking in a place crowded with people or other dogs. A retractable leash is fun for long walks and jogs.

Chew Toys and Bones -- Look for chew toys that are very hard and do not splinter. Nylabones, Kongs, or sterilized beef or knuckle bones are good. Rawhides and pig ears are okay every now and then but they should only be given when you are there to supervise as they can splinter, or, on rare occasions, cause tracheal or intestinal blockage. Inspect toys often for wear, and throw them away if they are worn or splintered.

Fun Toys -- Avoid toys that look or feel like things that you do not want your dog to chew on. For example, if you don’t want your dog to chew on your child’s stuffed animals, do not buy your dog stuffed toys. Some dogs like squeaky toys; others do not. Some dogs go crazy over balls; others won’t even look at them. Buy inexpensive toys of several different types before you spend a lot of money on any one type of toy. Toys like Kongs and Buster Cubes can be stuffed with food to keep your dog occupied while you’re away. Do not leave puppies alone with toys that can potentially come apart (like toys with squeakers) or break into small pieces.

Food -- Choose a high quality food that is high in quality proteins. The ingredient list should list lamb, chicken, beef or a meat “meal” as the #1 ingredient. Corn shouldn’t be the first ingredient listed. Treats should be of high quality as well.

Flea Prevention -- Fleas in our area are pesticide resistant. Flea collars, shampoos and powders offer a very temporary solution and are ultimately quite expensive. Advantage or Frontline are offered through your vet. They are very extremely effective and end up costing less in the long run.

Heartworm Prevention – Heartworms are a serious problem in our area. Your dog must be kept on heartworm preventative year round. Heartworm medicines are ONLY available through a vet. All of our dogs at AAR are on Heartguard, a chewable “treat” that is given once a month.

Other items – A mild shampoo (not a flea shampoo if you’re using Advantage or Frontline), a brush (brush often!), a rug/matt for the crate, and a cute bandana.