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The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Victoria) was established in Melbourne in 1871. Since then, the RSPCA has become Australia’s leading animal welfare organisation.

Across the state, the RSPCA’s community services include the work undertaken by our Inspectorate, Animal Care, Veterinary Clinic and Education and Learning teams. The RSPCA operates nine animal welfare shelters and two community pet care centres across Victoria, providing refuge, care and a second chance to thousands of animals each year.

Our Inspectorate receives more than 10,700 animal cruelty complaints each year, rescuing vulnerable animals from abuse and neglect and prosecuting cruelty offenders through the courts. Each year, our Education and Learning team contributes to prevention strategies by educating and influencing more than 6,300 young people on the value and importance of animal welfare.

The RSPCA works to increase community awareness and education on animal welfare and advocates tirelessly for improved legislation. Legislative improvements to better protect animals have been achieved at both state and federal levels thanks to the continued lobbying of the RSPCA and support of the community.

As a not-for-profit organisation, the RSPCA relies on community support to care for ‘all creatures great and small’. More than 90% of the RSPCA’s funding is due to the generous support of the Victorian community.
Congratulations and thank you for adopting your new dog from the RSPCA. RSPCA dogs make great companions and we hope that you both have a happy life together!

This handbook is designed to provide tips and suggestions to support you and your new dog during the ‘settling in’ period.
When you adopted your dog, you should have received certificates for vaccinations, microchipping and desexing. Where required, information may have also been provided relating to surgical aftercare.

These are important documents and should be stored in a safe location as part of your dog’s health record. This information is required for the future care of your dog by your veterinarian and to obtain concessional registration available from your local council.

**Your dog’s details**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dog’s name</th>
<th>Breed description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colour</td>
<td>Microchip number</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Contact details**

**Your local RSPCA**

Name  
Telephone  
Address  

**Your local council**

Name  
Telephone  
Address  

**24-hour emergency clinic**

Name  
Telephone  
Address  

**Your Veterinarian**

Name  
Telephone  
Address
What do I need?

Refer to the list below to ensure you have all the equipment and supplies needed to settle in your newly-adopted dog.

Our expert team is here to help and can provide advice on selecting products:

- Collar and ID tag
- Dog lead
- Water bowl
- Food bowl
- Dog or puppy food - (Hill’s recommended)
- Bedding
- Dog basket or kennel
- Toys
- Reward treats
- Pooper scooper
- Grooming brush or comb
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Flea and tick control products
- Worm control products

A shopping list is provided at the end of this booklet.

All proceeds from RSPCA animal product purchases help to support all creatures great and small.

If you have any health or behavioural concerns, please contact your RSPCA Adoption Centre for advice.

Post adoption check list

- **Desexing**
  If your dog has had surgery, ensure that you are aware when the sutures (stitches) are due for removal. Please also make sure that you retain the desexing certificate to obtain concessional council registration.

- **Vaccination**
  Ensure that you are aware when your dog’s next vaccination is due. Make sure you keep your dog’s vaccination certificate and present it to your veterinarian at the due time of their next vaccination.

- **Microchipping**
  Your dog has been microchipped. Please maintain the contact details current to ensure your dog is returned to you (for more information on ‘identifying your pet’ see page 8).

- **Continuous health care**
  If you received medication at the time of adoption, it is important to follow the instructions provided until the course of medication is complete.
As a responsible pet owner adopting from the RSPCA, you have met the criteria:

- You are over 18 years of age.
- You have not been convicted of an offence relating to cruelty to animals, and are not a known subject of an RSPCA investigation.
- The dog is not being purchased for use solely as a commercial guard dog.
- The dog is not being purchased as a present for another person without their knowledge.
- The dog will be registered with your local council within a reasonable time of purchase.

When you sign the purchase agreement provided by the RSPCA, you agree that you understand that the purchase is in accordance with the condition of sale under the Domestic Animals Act 1994 and that the following conditions apply:

- Should you find that the animal is unacceptable (excluding accidents) because of health or other reasons and this is supported by a veterinarian, within seven days of purchase, you will receive a full refund or replacement dog upon the return of the original purchase.
- Should you return the animal within three days for any reason, you will receive a refund of 75% of the total purchase price or will be offered a replacement animal with the same guarantee.
- All replacement dogs are subject to the same conditions of sale.
- All other treatment, including vaccinations, worming and flea treatment after purchase, will be at your cost.
- You undertake to provide all food, water, shelter and veterinary treatment for the life of the animal.
- You affirm that the animal will not be used for experimental or research purposes of any description, affirm that you are not a dealer or agent of a dealer.
- You agree that details of your purchase will be supplied by RSPCA Victoria to the relevant municipality in which you reside at the time of purchase.
Health concerns

Your new dog has been examined by a veterinarian and no significant health issues have been identified. However, we strongly recommend that you have your new dog examined by your own veterinarian just in case.

Should you have any concerns relating to the health of your dog as a result of the veterinary examination, we would ask that you contact the Adoption Centre from which you adopted the dog for advice and guidance. The RSPCA will provide free veterinary care for your dog for two weeks after adoption for conditions arising as a result of its shelter stay.

Should your dog commence treatment with a veterinarian, other than one engaged by the RSPCA, this will be at your expense unless pre-approved by us.

Many dogs that are placed in adoption arrive at RSPCA shelters as stray animals. Consequently we have little or no specific information regarding individual dogs, other than what we have observed during their stay at the shelter or what we have assessed during a behavioural assessment.

If you are experiencing difficulties with your new dog please contact RSPCA staff to discuss these issues and obtain assistance and advice.

Homecoming

An animal shelter can be an unsettling environment for many dogs, producing increased levels of stress. Be patient with your new dog during the ‘settling in’ period while it becomes established.

We would suggest that you allow your new dog space and time to investigate, explore and settle into its new environment. Remember your newly adopted dog has just experienced a period of change, uncertainty and possibly surgery that may require a little time to overcome.

When collecting your new dog make sure that you keep it on a lead.
Ensure that your property fencing is secure before your new dog is allowed off the lead. Always place your newly adopted dog on a lead when you venture outside the confines of your property.

On arrival at home don’t overwhelm your new dog, allow it time to explore its new environment and meet the other members of your family.

During this initial period you should keep the dog under observation to ensure that the introductory process is proceeding well.

Remember, your dog will not know initially what your expectations are, so be a little forgiving in establishing your rules. Don’t become annoyed, angry or aggressive as this is more likely to slow the learning process and to extend the settling in period.

Endeavour to be clear, consistent and use praise and reward treats to establish your expectations.

If there are a number of members of the family, it is important that you are all providing a similar message regarding your expectations.

Different expectations amongst family members causes confusion and will also slow the learning process.

It is very important to attach ID tags to your dog immediately. This will ensure that if it wanders or escapes from the yard there is a method of identification.

Your dog has been microchipped prior to adoption and you have completed ownership and contact details for this microchip. These details are provided to a nationally accessible database.

It takes up to six to eight weeks before these details are logged onto the national database. You will receive via the post, notification of your dog’s inclusion on the national database. Retain this notification in a safe place so that you can contact the register to alter any of the details.

If your dog becomes lost and is taken to a veterinary clinic, local council rangers or animal shelter, it will be scanned for a microchip.

It is essential that you notify the database of changes of ownership, address or contact details to ensure that the microchip details will remain updated.

All dogs over three months of age must be registered with your local council.

You will be provided with a registration tag and number and your dog must be wearing this tag when not contained within your property.

Local councils offer concessional registration for dogs that are desexed.
A new dog in the family

Dogs and children

While owning a dog provides an enormous benefit for children, it is very important that children are provided with the necessary knowledge to ensure this occurs as a safe experience. Dog bites involving children frequently involve their own dog or the dog of a friend.

Useful advice for the interaction of dogs and children:

- Never leave your dog and children playing alone together.
- Ensure that your dog is under your control when being introduced to your children.
- Don’t allow children to tease or play roughly with your dog.
- Don’t allow children to approach your dog while it is eating or sleeping.
- Don’t allow your dog to become over excited when interacting with children.
- If your dog has undergone surgery or is recovering from an illness supervise interactions with children.
- Ensure that your new dog has the opportunity to socialise safely with your children.
- Children frequently wish to hug and cuddle their new pet. It is never safe for a child to place their face near the face of a dog.
- Dogs may carry parasites that can be transmitted to humans. Never allow dogs to lick your face.

Introducing your existing dog

During the first few weeks there may be some disagreements while a new and existing dog get to know each other.

This is the manner in which dogs establish relationships and their relative seniority.

Useful advice for the interaction of your new dog with an existing dog:

- Ensure that the initial meeting occurs on ‘neutral’ territory, away from your home.
- Remove any objects that they are likely to compete over, for instance a bone, toy or food.
- Provide the new dog with an area of its own for eating and sleeping.
- Feed both dogs separately until you are very confident that food will not become a source of conflict.
- Start with short periods of joint play, walks and sharing reward treats.
- Try not to over compensate and favour one dog ahead of the other - supporting the underdog may well delay the settling in process.

Introductions with your existing cat

It is a reasonably normal instinct of dogs to chase a cat.

Consequently it is necessary that the initial introduction should be closely supervised to ensure that the prospect of conflict is minimised.

Never force the interaction, let it develop over time.
Socialising

It is essential that puppies are socialised and this occurs most easily whilst they are young and learning. Your puppy needs to be exposed to a range of experiences that it will need to cope with later in life. This includes meeting strangers, meeting other dogs, seeing traffic on a busy street and much more. By exposing your puppy to these things in a controlled situation it will gain confidence, be more relaxed and more readily able to adapt to changing circumstances later in life.

Puppies reared in isolation have to model their behaviour on what is around them, and if not exposed to other dogs miss out on opportunities to ‘learn’ how to be a dog.

Puppy pre-school is a safe environment where puppies can learn how to interact with other dogs. It is also a good source of information on raising a puppy and may provide assistance in addressing issues that you may be having with your new puppy.

Make your home puppy proof

Puppies like to explore their ‘new’ world and often don’t see the dangers that may lurk in that new environment. As a new owner you will need to look around for possible dangers, such as electric cords, poisons, chemicals, gaps in fencing, swimming pools and elevated balconies.

Puppies rarely understand that some of your possessions are very precious and so you need to place things out of harms way. Make sure you provide your puppy with objects and toys that they can chew and play with.

Toilet training

Puppies, like all young animals, have limited bladder control and it requires training to develop full control. There are several measures you need to undertake to assist in developing this.

The more diligent you are in this training the more quickly your puppy will become house-trained. For more information on ‘toilet training’ see page 14.
Puppies and boarding kennels

Boarding kennels apply an age restriction for which they can accept puppies for overnight boarding. Currently this is set at four months of age. If you are going away while your dog is a puppy you will need to organise a reliable friend or family member who can take care of your puppy during your absence.

All dogs entering a boarding kennel must have a current C5 vaccination.

Boarding kennels are heavily booked during holiday periods and long weekends, so it is essential that you book early for these times to ensure that accommodation is available.

Feeding your dog/puppy

All dogs at RSPCA Adoption Centres are fed Hill’s Science Diet. Some dogs experience stress from all of the changes that occur during the adoption process and consequently may stop eating. You may need to offer a range of foods to encourage their eating. The RSPCA feeds and recommends Hill’s Science Diet.

Other dogs may experience some diarrhoea as a result of these changes and the changes in their diet. If this does occur it is often necessary to provide small amounts of bland food over several days. If your new dog has diarrhoea and also appears unwell, or if the diarrhoea persists, please contact your local RSPCA.

General rules for feeding puppies

- Puppies should be fed a calcium-enriched diet to assist in good bone development. This is best achieved by using a ‘complete’ puppy growth formula.
- When choosing a manufactured dog food use a complete or ‘full balanced’ product.
- Most dogs enjoy bones and these assist in dental care. These bones must be raw.
- Weaned puppies being fed a balanced diet do not require milk as part of their diet as it may cause diarrhoea.
- You should monitor your dog’s body weight. Many owners frequently overfeed their dogs and obesity is often the result.
How much and how often?
Most dog food manufacturers provide feeding guidelines on the packaging. You should be aware that these are only guidelines and that most individual needs will vary. These variations will include the level of activity of your dog, whether the dog is a house dog or lives outside and whether it is winter, or summer.

Number of meals per day recommended for your dog

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Recommended formula</th>
<th>Meals per day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 weeks to 12 weeks</td>
<td>Puppy or growth</td>
<td>3 or 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 weeks to 6 months</td>
<td>Puppy or growth</td>
<td>2 or 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 months to 12 months</td>
<td>Puppy or growth for medium or large dogs</td>
<td>1 or 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 months and older</td>
<td>Adult or maintenance</td>
<td>1 or 2</td>
</tr>
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</table>

If your dog is receiving reward treats, leftovers or a bone, then include this as part of the total dietary input. It is important when feeding your dog to observe if it is becoming overweight. Obesity in dogs contributes significantly to a range of health issues.

Ongoing health care

Vaccinations
All RSPCA adopted dogs have received their vaccinations and a vaccination certificate has been provided. The RSPCA vaccinates dogs with a live C5 vaccine which provides them with protection against distemper, canine hepatitis, parvovirus and kennel cough. We recommended that a C5 booster or a C3 is included as part of your dog’s annual health check. A C3 only protects your dog against distemper, canine hepatitis and parvovirus.

Intestinal worms
Dogs can become infested with intestinal worms. A range of worms including intestinal, roundworms, hookworms, whipworms and tapeworms can affect humans and your dog should be wormed regularly throughout its life. All RSPCA adopted dogs have been wormed during their stay. Advice on which worming product is most suitable is available from the RSPCA or any veterinarian.

Heartworm
Heartworm lives within the heart chambers of dogs and can be a very severe health issue. It is spread via mosquitoes. The presence of heartworm varies throughout Australia, however, where it is endemic, it is essential that your dog receives preventative medication.

We have not blood-tested your dog and would recommend testing prior to commencing treatment. This is a matter you should discuss with your veterinarian.
Fleas
Fleas can occur on the cleanest and healthiest of dogs. They are the most common external parasite and can be easily treated. Flea bites can cause a very marked allergic reaction much in the same way mosquitoes can affect humans. Fleas suck blood when they bite and heavy flea infestation can result in significant blood loss.

The irritation from flea bites can result in dogs scratching and biting at themselves so severely that they cause a large amount of skin damage and secondary infection. Because fleas only spend a limited period of their life cycle on the dog, owners frequently underestimate the impact of fleas.

There is a large range of simple-to-use products available for the treatment and prevention of flea infestation and this should be discussed with our veterinary team or your own veterinarian.

Kennel cough
Kennel cough is an upper respiratory infection that can occur in dogs.

It is similar to the flu and has a higher incidence in areas where large numbers of dogs are present, such as in kennels or shelters. All RSPCA adopted dogs are vaccinated against the major agents causing kennel cough, however some dogs may contract it before the vaccine has become fully effective.

Kennel cough usually causes a moist cough although it may occur as a significant nasal discharge. Severe cases of kennel cough may cause the dog to stop eating and occasionally it may vomit in conjunction with the coughing. The symptoms of kennel cough usually ease over a seven to 14 day period. If your dog has severe signs of kennel cough you should obtain veterinary advice as the condition can be assisted with medication.

When your pet is sick
Depending on the severity of your dog’s problem, veterinary attention should be sought immediately. If the problem appears to be of a minor nature you should monitor its condition over a 24-hour period. If the problem persists, you should seek veterinary advice.

Exercise, enrichment and training

The behaviour of dogs is a result of a combination of inherited and learned traits in response to their environment. Many behavioural characteristics can be modified by training and enrichment programs designed to establish more acceptable behaviour. This is best achieved using positive reinforcement.

Aversion therapy and negative reinforcement (punishment) may have a limited and specific role in dog training although this has the potential, if inappropriately applied, to constitute animal cruelty.

Your new dog may have had little previous training and it may take several weeks to teach it some basic commands, such as ‘sit’, ‘stay’ and ‘come’.

Providing adequate exercise and mental stimulation (environmental enrichment) is important in the maintenance of a healthy dog and this, in conjunction with training, helps to provide stimulation for your dog. This will reduce the incidence of boredom, which is a significant factor in the behavioural problems of dogs.
Training guidelines:

- ‘Positive reinforcement’ in training is where a reward is provided when your dog does something desirable. The reward can take the form of praise, patting, a food treat or a game. If you are providing a food reward it should be accompanied by some verbal reward, such as, ‘good dog’.

- Consistency is essential when training a dog. It is worthwhile discussing your family’s expectations when training so that there is an agreed plan in the training process.

- Commands should be simple and uniform.

- Ensure that your expectations are realistic.

- Establishing your dog’s response to your commands helps establish the hierarchy within your family.

Formal dog obedience and training

Local councils frequently make public parks available for formal dog training. If you require assistance in the training of your dog, call your veterinarian or contact your local council.

Dog obedience training is great fun and can ensure that your dog is well socialised with people and other dogs. It can be of considerable assistance for people who have limited experience in training dogs.

The RSPCA conducts a number of training programs that may assist beginner dogs, intermediate dogs and their owners! Visit rspcavic.org for more information.

Toilet training

Toilet training of dogs is essential if the dog is to be a house dog. It is a process that should start immediately when the dog arrives at its new home. Dogs generally wish to go to the toilet after they wake up or shortly after they have eaten. They become restless prior to going to the toilet and will sniff around and sometimes circle.

Owners need to be observant of their dogs and when the dog exhibits tell-tale signs, quietly and without fuss take it outside. If you do this when the dog wishes to go to the toilet it usually obliges.

It is often worth using a command, such as ‘quickly’ or ‘toilet’. After the dog has toileted, praise the dog, give it a food reward and if appropriate take it back inside. These multiple rewards quickly reinforce the correct behaviour. Toilet training takes patience and persistence and results are directly related to owner commitment.

If your dog has an accident inside the house it is best not to shout at or punish your dog, but to ignore it and try harder next time. If you respond very negatively it is more likely to result in the dog becoming anxious and secretive in its toileting habits.

If there is an accident quickly clean the area and take the dog and the waste product outside, allow the dog to sniff the paper towelling and praise the dog. Clean the area with a non-ammonia based cleaning product to ensure that the dog is not further attracted to the area. It is worthwhile placing newspaper in an area overnight where your dog can soil if necessary and can be ultimately removed as it gains adequate control.
Many behavioural problems of dogs are associated with stress, boredom, lack of socialisation and lack of training. Appropriate training, exercise and social interaction will frequently prevent the development of behavioural problems. The following are suggestions you may consider whilst addressing some of the behavioural issues that can arise with your dog. However, if this advice is not resolving the problem, it is important to gain assistance before the behaviour becomes entrenched.

**Using obedience training**

The starting point of all training programs is to ensure that your dog responds to set commands, such as, ‘sit’, ‘stay’, ‘drop’ and ‘come’. Dogs are by nature pack animals and within the pack there is an order of seniority or importance. By establishing your ability to have the dog respond to your commands you are developing a pecking order within the dog’s pack, of which you and your family are members.

There are other methods where you can similarly assert your seniority in the pack or household. Try not feeding tidbits when you are eating, asking your dog to ‘sit’ before you respond to its demands, asking it to ‘wait’ when placing food down and then allowing it to eat on your command. You might also make your dog sit before you open a door to allow it into the house or through a gateway. These are activities that the whole family can and should do. In a family it is often important to assist other family members, particularly children, to assert their position within the hierarchy.

**Mouthing**

Mouthing is a normal part of puppy behaviour. A puppy frequently uses its mouth to explore an environment. It can also use mouthing behaviour to assert itself over other animals. Your response will vary depending on the reason.

If your puppy is mouthing and chewing to investigate its environment, merely offer an alternative acceptable chew toy, such as a rawhide bone or a rope toy. In this way your puppy ceases its inappropriate activity and learns to give up things when required. If your puppy is mouthing you in a playful way but starts becoming assertive and inflicting discomfort and pain, make a noise to resemble a pain response and remove your hand or body part from the dog. If the puppy continues, repeat your response but walk away and ignore the dog until it settles down.

**Barking**

Barking is a normal activity for puppies and dogs, however in a suburban environment you must be very aware of the impact of barking on neighbours. Barking is the single most common reason for neighbourhood complaints to local councils involving dogs.

**Dogs bark for multiple reasons:**

- Trying to attract attention
- Communicating
- Expression of anxiety or fear
- To raise the alarm
- Boredom
- Lack of training

Your initial response to a barking dog should be to ignore it.
If it is to seek attention and you respond, even to say ‘no’ you are in fact rewarding the behaviour, the reward being that you are providing attention. It is more appropriate to wait until the dog has ceased barking and then to go out and talk to the dog or invite the dog inside.

If the dog is barking because it is anxious or frightened, try to establish the cause and remove the source of concern. If the dog barks through boredom, such as being left for prolonged periods, attempt to provide the dog with some type of environmental enrichment. Many things such as Kong toys and treat balls will provide additional stimulation.

**Digging**

Digging is a normal activity for dogs and is more established in the genetic make-up of some breeds, such as Jack Russell Terriers. If digging is a problem you should initially say ‘no’ and provide some other activity to divert the dog’s attention. If this continues you might consider blocking the hole with a rock or the dog’s faeces. You could consider establishing a digging pit for a dog where it is acceptable for the dog to dig and play games in this area by burying a toy for the dog to find.

**Escaping**

It is very important that the yard is secure to prevent a dog escaping. Frequently, owners underestimate the height of a fence that a dog can scale if they wish to escape. It is normal that a dog will sometimes escape to investigate the world. If the dog continues to attempt to escape, assess whether there are adequate activities for your dog within its environment, to provide stimulation when left unattended.

Ensure that you are providing your dog with sufficient exercise prior to leaving it and that you commit to a reward when you return if the dog has remained on your property.

Some dogs are just naturally inclined to wander and the only method of preventing their escape is to install a doggy door to keep your dog inside, or construct a return on the top of your fence. Some dogs will only attempt to escape during thunderstorms or when there are fireworks and the solution is to provide a higher level of security at these times.

**Food and possession aggression**

Some dogs will exhibit possession or food aggression which results if somebody attempts to approach or remove their food, bedding or toys or possibly remove them from furniture.

If your dog were to become very possessive with its food, a possible approach is to provide several bowls of food and whilst it is eating, take one of the unattended bowls away, then replace it when taking another bowl away. This way, the dog becomes less stressed by the removal of food and is rewarded by having it returned without having to exhibit aggression.

You can try a similar approach if your dog becomes overly possessive of objects by offering an alternative treat when removing the object then returning that possession after the dog has given it up.
NAME: ......................................................................................................................

**FOOD – HILL’S SCIENCE DIET FOOD** – your new puppy has been eating Hill’s Science Diet food while in our care. To avoid an upset stomach it is best to keep your puppy on the same diet. If you do choose to change your puppy’s diet, we recommend you do this gradually.

- [ ] Hill’s Puppy Toy and Small Breed
- [ ] Hill’s Ideal Balance Puppy
- [ ] Hill’s Puppy Large Breed
- [ ] Hill’s Puppy Healthy Development
- [ ] Hill’s Puppy Small Breed
- [ ] Hill’s Puppy can

**FLEA AND WORMING CONTROL** – our staff will give you all the information you need to treat your new pet correctly.

- [ ]

**COLLAR & LEAD** – our staff will be able to show you the most suitable product if your new puppy requires a special walking aid.

- [ ]

**SEAT BELT ATTACHMENT**

- [ ]

**ID TAG** – this can be organised within 10 minutes in store (excludes Peninsula).

- [ ]

**WATER BOWL** – the bowl should be large enough to hold a day’s worth of water. Ceramic bowls are best as they keep the water cool and are harder to tip over.

- [ ]

**FOOD BOWL**

- [ ]

**PUPPY TRAINING PADS**

- [ ]

**POO BAGS**

- [ ]

**BEDDING**

- [ ] Trampoline
- [ ] Cushioned
- [ ] Plush round bed
- [ ] Igloo
- [ ] Crate
- [ ] Futon bed
TOYS – a cuddle toy for nap time and a chew toy for play time will be enough to start with. Kong’s are a great way to keep your puppy stimulated when it is home alone.

- Kong (S, M, L, XL)
- Plush toy
- Behavioural toy
- Rope toys
- Chew toys

TREATS – small liver treats are a great training tool.

GROOMING – a basic puppy shampoo and brush is all you will need.

- Slicker brush
- Nail clippers
- De-shedding rake
- Shedding comb
- Medium comb
- Fine tooth comb
# Shopping list for your new dog

**NAME:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FOOD – HILL’S SCIENCE DIET FOOD – your new dog has been eating Hill’s Science Diet food while in our care. To avoid an upset stomach it is best to keep your dog on the same diet. If you do choose to change your dog’s diet, we recommend you do this gradually.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>○ Hill’s Adult Toy and Small Breed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ Hill’s Advanced Fitness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ Hill’s Sensitive Skin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ Hill’s Adult Light</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ Hill’s Canine Mature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ Hill’s Adult Small Breed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ Hill’s Adult Large Breed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ Hill’s Sensitive Stomach</td>
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<tr>
<td>○ Hill’s Ideal Balance</td>
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<tr>
<td>○ Hill’s cans</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FLEA AND WORMING CONTROL – our staff will give you all the information you need to treat your new pet correctly.</th>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>COLLAR &amp; LEAD – our staff will be able to show you the most suitable product if your new dog requires a special walking aid.</th>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEAT BELT ATTACHMENT</th>
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<tr>
<th>ID TAG – this can be organised within 10 minutes in store (excludes Peninsula).</th>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>WATER BOWL – the bowl should be large enough to hold a day’s worth of water. Ceramic bowls are best as they keep the water cool and are harder to tip over.</th>
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<th>FOOD BOWL</th>
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<tr>
<th>POO BAGS</th>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>BEDDING</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>○ Trampoline bed</td>
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<tr>
<td>○ Igloo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ Cushioned mat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ Crate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ Plush round bed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ Futon bed</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**TOYS** – a cuddle toy for nap time and a chew toy for play time will be enough to start with. Kong’s are a great way to keep your dog stimulated when it is home alone.
- Kong (S, M, L, XL)
- Plush toy
- Behavioural toy
- Rope toys
- Chew toys

**TREATS** – small liver treats are a great training tool. We also have a large range of chew treats that will help to keep your dog entertained.

**GROOMING** – a basic dog shampoo and brush is all you will need.
- Slicker brush
- Nail clippers
- De-shedding rake
- Shedding comb
- Medium comb
- Fine tooth comb
- Bristle brush
- Furminator

**SPECIAL NEEDS / FURTHER COMMENTS:**

...
More information

Visit rspcavic.org for more information on caring for your dog and what to do if it is lost. There is also a large range of pet products and publications available at all Adoption Centres and Veterinary Clinics.

For specific behavioural problems, please email the RSPCA at animalbehaviour@rspcavic.org.au or phone 03 9224 2222.