Make the right match

A practical checklist for bringing home your first puppy or adult dog. Tick digitally or print and complete by hand.

PREPARATION / BEFORE YOU COMMIT

Your home and everyday life

- [ ] Agree on who is responsible for daily care and expenses.
- [ ] Map work, commuting and time away from home.
- [ ] Check housing conditions and applicable local animal rules.
- [ ] Consider adult size, energy, grooming, noise and temperament.
- [ ] Plan care around children, other animals and shared spaces.
- [ ] Choose for your ordinary weekday, as well as your weekends.

The breeder or organization

- [ ] Verify who you are dealing with and where the dog comes from.
- [ ] Discuss temperament, health history and suitability for your home.
- [ ] Ask for relevant health-test results and veterinary records.
- [ ] Read the agreement, deposit terms and support or return policy.
- [ ] Confirm identification and any promised registration paperwork.

The budget

- [ ] Price setup, food, veterinary care, grooming and training locally.
- [ ] Include walking, sitting or boarding in your recurring budget.
- [ ] Decide how to pay an unexpected bill; review any insurance terms.

Before paying a deposit

Resolve unclear answers first. Keep written terms, receipts and contact details together.

Get your home ready

Put the routine and the people in place before pickup day. Adapt each task to your dog and household.

PREPARATION / BEFORE ARRIVAL

Care and routine

- [ ] Book the initial veterinary visit and arrange transfer of records.
- [ ] Save your regular clinic and emergency veterinary contacts.
- [ ] Assign meals, toilet breaks, overnight care and daily activity.
- [ ] Arrange daytime support and a named backup caregiver.
- [ ] Research a suitable trainer and agree on household expectations.

Food and identification

- [ ] Get the exact current food, daily quantity and meal schedule.
- [ ] Prepare food storage, including fridge or freezer space if needed.
- [ ] Order a readable identification tag with your telephone number.
- [ ] Confirm microchip registration or transfer steps, where applicable.
- [ ] Check your municipality's licensing and tag requirements.

A safe, comfortable home

- [ ] Prepare a quiet resting area and secure barriers where needed.
- [ ] Secure medication, cleaners, bins, cords and small loose objects.
- [ ] Inspect gates, fences, entrances and the route to the toilet area.
- [ ] Plan supervised introductions and separate spaces for other pets.
- [ ] Prepare cleanup supplies and follow product label directions.

Arrival date: _____ Main caregiver: _____

Your supply checklist

Start with useful basics that fit your dog. Add extras after you learn their preferences and needs.

SUPPLIES / THE ESSENTIALS

Walking, identification and travel

- [ ] Secure, correctly fitted collar or harness and a suitable lead.
- [ ] Readable identification tag with current contact details.
- [ ] Appropriate carrier or vehicle restraint, fitted as directed.
- [ ] Waste bags, a travel water bowl and cleanup supplies.

Feeding and rest

- [ ] The familiar food currently fed, with written feeding instructions.
- [ ] Stable, washable food and water bowls.
- [ ] Suitable food containers and fridge or freezer space if required.
- [ ] Washable bedding and spare blankets or towels.
- [ ] A suitable crate or pen, if part of your settling and care plan.
- [ ] Secure gates or barriers for the areas you need to manage.

Care, learning and play

- [ ] Coat-appropriate grooming tools and a handling plan.
- [ ] Appropriate training food, included in the overall feeding plan.
- [ ] Size-appropriate toys and chewing options for supervised use.
- [ ] Dog-appropriate cleaning supplies, used according to the label.

Can wait until you know your dog

Large food purchases, specialist activity equipment and non-essential accessories. Choose weather protection for your dog and local conditions.

Ready for the beginning

Bring the paperwork, keep the journey secure and make the first day calm. You can build the adventures from here.

PREPARATION / PICKUP DAY

Before you leave

- [ ] Confirm pickup time, payment arrangements and required documents.
- [ ] Pack identification, walking equipment and secure transport.
- [ ] Bring water, cleanup supplies and spare bedding.
- [ ] Confirm the route and any practical travel or toilet stops.

Before heading home

- [ ] Collect the agreement, receipt, health and identification records.
- [ ] Get feeding, medication and care instructions in writing.
- [ ] Ask when the dog last ate and toileted.
- [ ] Take familiar food and confirm the contact for follow-up questions.

Your final readiness check

- [ ] The food, resting space, toilet route and essential supplies are ready.
- [ ] Care responsibilities, veterinary access and backup help are arranged.
- [ ] Funds are available for routine needs and unexpected expenses.
- [ ] The arrival plan allows quiet time, supervision and rest.

Regular vet / phone: _____

Emergency vet / phone: _____

Backup caregiver / phone: _____

Explore Breed Wise, Feed Wise, local services and the free Paw Rewards app at pawrewards.com.

A supported beginning

Keep the original preparation and supply pages as your working checklist. These partner pages are separate from the buyer questions and do not certify a breeder or recommend a product for your dog.



Big Country Raw • Paw Privileges partner

Your next steps

Explore Puppy Academy

Research responsible Canadian breeders

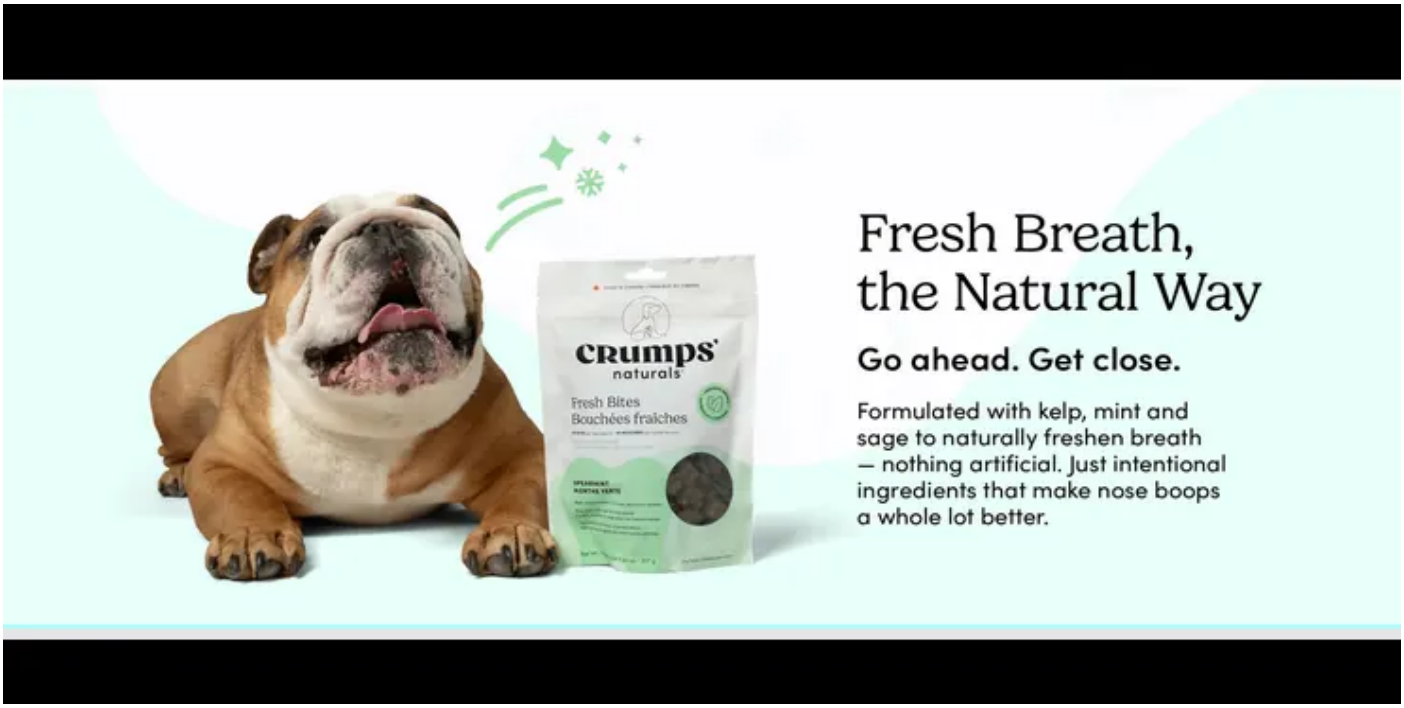
Review your breed and lifestyle fit

Paw Rewards is 100% free to download and use, with no subscription or premium tier. An active free app account is required to earn and redeem eligible Treats. No breeder invitation is required.

Walking, learning and shared activities can strengthen your bond whether or not they qualify for incentives. Separate partner purchases have their own prices and terms.

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Crumps' Naturals • Paw Privileges partner

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