# New puppy checklist

MoodTag

## SHOPPING LIST

- [ ] Bed or crate, and a puppy gate or playpen
- [ ] Water and food bowls your puppy can't chew or tip over (the RSPCA recommends clean water at all times)
- [ ] The same puppy food the breeder or shelter has been using
- [ ] Chew toys
- [ ] Collar, lead and a harness
- [ ] An ID tag engraved with your phone number
- [ ] Puppy pads, odour remover, poo bags
- [ ] Brush and nail clippers
- [ ] A car restraint for the trip home and vet visits

## BEFORE PICKUP

- [ ] Choose a vet and book the first check-up.
- [ ] Puppy-proof the house and yard: cords, chemicals, small objects and gaps in the fence.

## AT PICKUP: PAPERWORK

- [ ] **Microchip:** the seller must microchip the puppy before sale or transfer in most states. In NSW, the breeder completes the ownership transfer to you. Ask for the microchip number and check the transfer has started.
- [ ] **Vaccination certificate:** which vaccine, which date, and when the next one is due.
- [ ] **Worming and flea treatments:** what was given and when.
- [ ] **Food:** brand, amount and how many meals a day.

## FIRST WEEK

- [ ] **Day 1:** put the collar and ID tag on, keep the first day quiet, and show your puppy its bed, water and toilet spot.
- [ ] **Days 1 to 3:** check the microchip is registered in your name, start a toilet routine and keep meals the same as before.
- [ ] **Within the first week:** the first vet check (and the date of the next vaccine), a parasite plan, and booking puppy school.

## THE FIRST 6 MONTHS AT A GLANCE

| AGE | WHAT TO DO | |
|---|---|---|
| **6 to 8 weeks** | First core vaccine | ☐ |
| **8 to 12 weeks** | Comes home: collar and ID tag on, first vet visit, microchip in your name | ☐ |
| **10 to 16 weeks** | Vaccine boosters every 2 to 4 weeks; puppy school; socialisation before about 14 weeks | ☐ |
| **12 weeks to 3 months** | Council registration (6 months in Tasmania) | ☐ |
| **About 5 to 6 months** | Ask your vet about desexing (one vet group, Greencross, suggests around this age) | ☐ |
| **About 6 months** | Vaccine booster or blood test | ☐ |
| **As your puppy grows** | Move the ID tag to each bigger collar | ☐ |

Worming, flea, tick and heartworm treatments run all through this time: your vet will set the schedule.