



# Prepping for Your New Dog

*Tips from H.O.P.E. Animal Rescue*

*The first week with your new dog is exciting—but it can also feel overwhelming. A little planning makes the transition smoother for everyone.*

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## Before your dog arrives...

1. **Have a Family Discussion:** having a dog is a big commitment, so make sure everyone is on the same page before taking the plunge. **Set house rules** in advance (where your dog will sleep, off-limits rooms, walking and feeding duties, etc.).
  2. **Supplies:** Having some of the basic supplies ahead of time can help with the transition period, and help avoid any last minute mad dashes to the store.
    - ☐ Crate (choose one roomy enough for your dog to stand, turn, and stretch)
    - ☐ Stainless steel food & water bowls (durable and easy to clean)
    - ☐ Food & treats (stick with the same food at first to avoid stomach upset)
    - ☐ Collar, leash, and ID tag
    - ☐ Bed or blanket
    - ☐ Toys (KONG, balls, plush toys, etc.)
    - ☐ Poop bags (a leash clip-on dispenser is handy!)
  3. **Prepare Your House:** Depending on the age of your new dog, this may require more work the younger they are.
    - **Dog-proof key areas:** Move cords, shoes, or small items out of reach.
    - **Create a temporary living space:** Use a crate or gated room for the first few weeks. Choose a central area so your dog feels part of family life without being overwhelmed.
  4. **Plan the Trip Home:** It might be helpful to have someone go with you when you go pick up your dog. Dogs can get nervous, and having a dog be nervous on their first ride with their new family might lead to issues down the road. Just like when you bring a baby home, you will want someone there to help your new dog calm.
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## Key Takeaway

*Preparation sets your dog up for success. With the right supplies, a safe space, and a calm introduction, you'll start building trust and create a smooth transition into your home.*