**What My New Dog Will Need**

After many years of setting people up with their new dogs, this is what I have learned.

First, don’t go to the pet store and spend $500 on new things. Let things evolve. As you find a need you can get things, but I guarantee you will find you need less than what you thought.

**Collar and Leash**-You will need to bring a collar and leash when you pick up your dog. We suggest that all dogs have a properly fitting collar and harness. The collar should be a martingale collar. This is similar to the chain choke collars you may remember, but it’s made out of webbing. Rescue dogs will be uncomfortable in their new surroundings and can back out of collars. They will not back out of a martingale collar. The harness should be an Easy Walk or Front Clip. The front clip is nice, as you can get a leash that will clip to the front and back clip on the harness for training purposes. Please do not use retractable leashes. They are dangerous and confusing for the dog. For the human they are maddening as you try to lock them and the cord reels away. The best leash for play is a 30 or 50 foot leash.

**Bowls**-Use stainless

**Beds**-Go to Marshalls or TJ Maxx. They have the best beds for the best price.

**Toys**-A ball, a stuffed toy and a squeaky toy. That is all your dog will need in the beginning.

**Crate**-All Fluffy Dogs should be crated for your and their safety. It doesn’t matter if you choose wire or plastic. Do not get a mesh or nylon car carrier as a crate. Also, make sure there is enough room on all sides of the crate, including the top, for your dog to be comfortable.

**Brush**-I prefer a comb. Brushes will not get out the mats well. A slicker brush is also effective.

**Food**-This is what is most important. Raw is best. We have a link to Dr. Becker’s site on our Resources page that will tell you the reasons why. If you do not choose this option, second best is a high quality canned food and lastly a high quality grain-free. Please see our Dog Food Advisor link on our Resources page.

**Treats**-The best treat has one ingredient, meat. This comes in many sizes and shapes, but read the ingredients before you buy. Anything other than meat is filler.

**Chews**-Bully sticks or animal bones. No rawhide or rawhide ground to look like a bully stick. Read the ingredients.

There are a lot of items for dogs, and it is hard to see the forest through the trees. Hopefully this information will set you in the right direction.