

New Pet Checklist

Creating a routine is key to setting your new pet up for success. Here's what a daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly routine should look like for your cat or dog.

Every animal is different, so make sure to work with your vet to get your pet on the right schedule.

Essentials

- Find a veterinarian
- Research pet health insurance
- Research best training plan for your pet
- Comfortable bed
- Harness and/or collar

Cats

- Laser pointer and feather toys
- Scratching posts
- Cat carrier
- Litter box (one for each cat plus one additional), pooper scooper, and a litter waste receptacle

Dogs

- Crate
- Anti-chew spray
- Poop bags
- Chew Toys (avoid toys that easily break or splinter)

Pet Proofing

- Cover electrical outlets and wires
- Cover trash cans with lids
- Remove toxic plants and any rat or insect poison
- Keep medicine and cleaning products out of your pet's reach

Feeding

- Stainless steel or ceramic food and water bowls

Home Grooming

- Nail clippers
- A comb and brush
- Pet-safe disinfectant sprays
- Hypoallergenic or baby shampoo
- Unscented baby wipes
- Appropriate dog ear cleanser

Daily Routine

- Always have fresh water out
- Schedule playtime for 15-30 min at least 3-4 times/day
- Wash food and water bowls regularly

Cats

- Scoop your cat's litter box at least once daily (twice is best)
- Cats that tend to overeat should be fed dedicated meals 2-3 times/day. Consider a slow feeder.

Dogs

- Provide bathroom breaks 30-40 min after meals, 3-4 times/day
- Dogs 6-14 weeks should be fed 3-4 times/day. Dogs 6-8 months or older should be fed 2-3 times/day.

Weekly Routine

- Brush your pet's teeth at least 3x/week
- Brush your pet's coat at least 2x/week
- Clean your pet's toys
- Deep clean litter box (while wearing gloves, fully empty of litter, scrub and rinse with disinfectant, and dry)

Monthly Routine

- Trim your pet's nails (or get them professionally done)
- Depending on breed, consider professional grooming
- Give flea, tick, and heartworm medications on the same day each month (mark your calendar)

Yearly Routine

- Schedule regular veterinary wellness exams