
HOME SAFETY CHECKLIST FOR YOUR PET

GENERAL HOME

- Pet proof gates
 - Check that your doors close properly
 - Secure your doorknobs
 - Keep your blinds out of reach
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KITCHEN

- Secure your cabinets
 - Move any poisonous materials, medicines, vitamins and chemicals
 - Secure trash can
 - Keep people food out of reach
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LAUNDRY ROOM

- Block off small spaces behind the appliances
 - Move laundry supplies out of reach
 - Check inside the machine before turning on your washer or dryer
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BATHROOM

- Keep toilet lid closed with a toilet lock
- Secure your paper goods and cleansers

LIVING ROOM

- Hide wiring and cover sockets
 - Secure games and toys
 - Check your plants
 - Move breakable items up high
 - Secure the fireplace
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BEDROOM

- Keep hair products out of reach
 - Minimize your clutter
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EXTERIOR

- Fence quality
- Garden toxins
- Opt for cocoa-based mulches
- Pick up after your dog every day
- Clean the garage floor
- Sharp objects and tools out of reach
- Keep them away from the hot barbeque



FIRST TIME PET OWNERS TO DO'S

- Get to your vet:** Immediate health concerns include examination and vaccinations for rabies tags, de-worming and planning the procedure to get your dog spayed or neutered. This may seem cruel initially, but this operation is actually good for pet populations and your dog in particular.
- Medication:** Puppies will need some flea and tick protection as well as heartworm medication. After a romp outside, quickly check your dog for ticks — these can cause discomfort or illness in your dog.
- Consider microchipping:** If your dog is lost, this implanted chip can be scanned to discover an owner. It's a pretty common and inexpensive procedure.
- Defray costs:** If the vet you choose is a financial burden that could affect the health care of your pup. Vets have differing fee structures, so try to find one you are comfortable paying. Also, many vets and ASPCA centers offer low-cost or free spaying/neutering.
- Pet insurance:** No matter how safe you are, accidents can happen and it's important to prepare. If you live in a more dangerous area, either heavily trafficked or with animals like snakes or raccoons that can attack your dog, you may want to look at insurance. This Consumer Reports piece get's into the cost breakdown, but ultimately you have to think about your particular situation like if dangers are more common near you and if you have the bankroll to pay for something like a broken doggie leg out of pocket.
- Get a license:** In most states, it is necessary to get your dog licensed — lifetime licenses are often available and cost around \$50 — the fine for not having a license can be pretty severe.
- Obedience training:** Puppies need discipline in order to become housebroken and to avoid nasty habits, like chewing your coffee table. Classes are ideal for getting dogs to walk more comfortably on a leash and to be calm around strangers (not to jump up or snap). Many animal shelters or humane societies will offer inexpensive classes. Your vet may offer low-cost classes as well.
- Nutrition:** Puppies require specific nutrients because their bodies are still growing — it's imperative to get food geared to young dogs. Try not to feed them any human food as there are many of our edibles that are poisonous to dogs including: chocolate, grapes, onions, avocados, raisins, macadamia nuts, garlic and coffee.
- Emergency contact:** If you are incapacitated, someone needs to be ready to take care of your dog. Make a plan so you aren't scrambling at the last minute.

