



Getting Ready for your Boxer

Once you've decided that you just can't live without a Boxer, here are some things you can do while you wait for your puppy, to make the transition as smooth as possible.

Shop:

Decide on a **QUALITY food** - please research your choice before buying - check out the reviews etc... there are several Quality ones out there and even more less desirable ones. You can expect to pay more for a quality dog food, but in the end you will use less and have less problem issues with your Boxer. With a Boxer, this is not an area I recommend "skimping" on.

Breeder feels, that as a carnivore, the very best diet for your boxer, is a species appropriate diet. A RAW diet offers many health benefits. My puppies are weaned to a raw diet with the hopes that you will continue once they leave me. If this is not something you are willing to do, you will find dog food advisor dot com, a helpful site for researching a quality grain FREE all life stages food. Find the lowest carbohydrate content possible. Many boxers do not do well on corn, wheat or soy. Boxers are very prone to skin sensitivities - allergies, some due to diet but seems most are chemical or vaccine related. I like INSTINCT by Natures Variety.

Collar - a light weight collar for the tags and a harness to walk the pup seems to work best.

Food and Water dishes - recommend heavy weight stainless steel bowls or heavy ceramic. Both clean up real nice in a dishwasher.

Grooming tools - a simple boar bristle brush will be fine, toe nail clipper or my choice, a dremel with a light - whatever you feel you can handle. Make sure you keep the nails trimmed down someway so they maintain their proper gait and foot structure.

Boxers need very few baths as you don't want to dry out their skin. They do groom themselves- like cats - however there will be 'the occasion'.. for those I use a gentle Castile shampoo for the Oh My Word what have you gotten yourself into occasions or flea outbreak. All of my dogs love it when I rub them down with the damp towel from the washing machine prior to making it to the dryer - it freshens them up a bit and helps remove any loose hairs or dirt. The shampoo's I use (castile liquid), can be diluted and one or two dog safe pest repelling essential oils can be added.



Toys - Get some toys that you and your dog can play with together, such as balls and plush toys, and some safe things to keep him busy when he's alone, such as Kongs. Never leave your dog unattended with any toy that has small, detachable parts. Kong's filled with some healthy concoction such as yogurt with pureed blueberries, or smashed boiled chicken livers etc. and frozen overnight to make it last longer to keep them occupied longer. Very handy for the times you may have to get down to some serious housecleaning and can't supervise them and don't want them underfoot. Usually, they don't mind being in their crate instead of with me, when I give them these.

BED - Every dog needs a quiet place to call his own. Create a comfortable area for your dog to go to when he needs rest or privacy. Breeder recommends crate training, taken slow as boxers are prone to separation anxiety more than most breeds I think. Just remember it's not intended for extended periods of confinement as Boxers need to be with their people.

Containment - It is essential that you have a secure method of keeping your dog on your property. If your property is not fenced, stress to family members that the dog must be leashed at all times when taken outdoors.

Dog Proof Home and Yard - Move breakables or chewables to higher ground. Make electrical cords inaccessible, block off areas that are off limits. Make sure there are no chemicals out and around for them to get to in the house or the yard - cleaning agents, bug sprays, car fluids, etc. they can will will explore EVERYTHING while looking for "FUN" things to do - both inside and outside! Get down on your hands and knees and see all the "fun" things your dogs can get into.

Find a Veterinarian - Choose a vet for your dog. So that you'll have a number to call in case of an emergency. There is a good holistic Vet in Jasper Georgia, Dr. Kim Parker-Royer. I hear CHAI Holistic in Chattanooga Tennessee is good also, and I'm sure there's others out there as well. I always prefer someone who doesn't push the many toxic chemicals for my dogs.