

# 7 Things All Dogs Need

Top Items Recommended by Dr. Yin

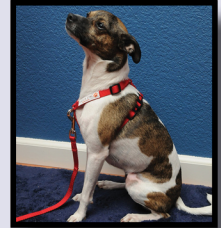
## Dog Crate

It's essential that your dog learn to love his rest-time in a crate meant just for him. This place will become his personal pooch palace, where he feels safe when you travel or when he needs a break from visitors at your house. Once your dog is trained to love his crate, it will aid with potty training, car safety (if you don't have a dog safety belt), and in preventing household destruction.



## Flat Collar, Front Attaching Harness, or Head Halter

For walking your dog, you'll want a flat collar, a front-attaching harness, or a head collar. The flat collar is convenient since dogs can wear it all of the time, while a front-attaching harness will give more directional control and a head collar will deliver the most overall body-control. Be sure you take the time to train your dog to enjoy wearing the collar or harness by pairing it with food first.



## Hands-Free Leash

While most people are getting their arms pulled out of their sockets or are holding the leash in a way that signals their dog to pull, a hands-free leash can be a helpful tool in training your dog to walk on a loose leash. My favorite brand is the Buddy System because it's lightweight and easy to adjust. For big strong dogs, you may want to order the Dog-Safe Hands-Free leash sold by Blue Dog Training at <http://www.bluedogtraining.com/leashes.html>.



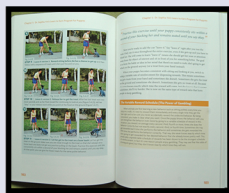
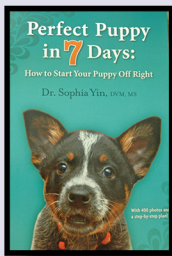
## Kong or Other Food Dispensing Toys

Studies have shown that animals prefer to work for their food, even when identical food can easily be obtained from a nearby dish. A portion of your dog's meal should be fed in some type of food enrichment toy. This makes the meal last longer, turns mealtime into a game, and provides enrichment for your dog. These food toys can also be used to distract and engage your dog when you want to train him to be in a crate or lay calmly with visitors.



## Perfect Puppy in 7 Days

Whether you have a new puppy or an adult dog, for the quickest bonding and the smoothest transition, you should start training right away. This book provides a step-by-step program for training dogs to give you their attention and look to you for guidance while giving you a plan in developing leadership and providing clear direction for your dog.



## Bait Bag

You'll need a bag to carry your dog's kibble and some treats. The Doggone Good bags are my favorite. They come in two ample sizes and open and close easily for quick access while maintaining the ability to keep the treats in the bag instead of spilling out, even if you run. The construction is sturdy and will survive years of heavy use.



## Treats

For most of your training, you should use your dog's regular kibble (or daily allotment of food); but you'll also need treats, at first, in more distracting situations. One of my favorite treats is Natural Balance food roll because you can cut it into single bite pieces for your dog and it's soft and tasty to most of them.



## What You Don't Need:

### Food dish:

Feeding out of the food bowl is now considered the lazy way to feed your pet. It's a wasted opportunity for training and interacting with your dog, or for using a food-related puzzle. Toss the bowl and use the food for training and other enrichment purposes instead.



### Choke chain/pinch collar:

You shouldn't cause pain or discomfort in your dog when trying to train it to walk nicely (see the AVSAB position statement on punishment). In general, avoid choke chains and pinch collars, especially on dogs prone to glaucoma or breeds prone to collapsing trachea and other upper airway conditions (such as Pugs, Bulldogs, Boston Terriers, etc).



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