

# Puppy Prep Checklist

	<p><b>Irish Wolfhound Puppy – don't forget this bit!</b></p> <p><b>Try and create a safe place in your home for your new puppy, where s/he can go to eat and sleep. Where s/he is safe, especial at night and when you need to go out. Don't forget when putting puppy in and out of pens and crates and through doors, leave plenty of time for the tail to get safely through before you close the door! And watch those little paws as sometimes they don't know where their feet are as they twist and turn.</b></p> <p><b>Listed below are a few items which may help you.</b></p>
	<p><b>Crate or pen</b> – this could be a metal pen or crate or a soft-sided crate. Available from pet shops, suppliers and online. Make sure the crate is big enough to accommodate a rapidly growing Wolfhound.</p> <p>Croft have always been my firm favourite and are highly versatile, you can add panels as puppy grows, and stores flat when no longer required. There are now others on the market so shop around.</p> <p><a href="http://www.croftonline.co.uk/products.asp?partno=FREEDOM900">http://www.croftonline.co.uk/products.asp?partno=FREEDOM900</a></p> <p>As with all products amazon and ebay are always worth a look.</p>
	<p><b>Bedding</b> – the best form of bedding is Vet Bed as it comes in various sizes and can be cut easily to fit and it is very durable and can be thrown in the washing machine. It can be bought in pre-cut lengths or or rolls. Available from pet shops, suppliers and online. Only once puppy is older and doesn't chew would I start to spend money on expensive beds.</p>
	<p>Kuranda Dog Beds - these are the only ones I have found that stand the test of time, chewing puppies, and various other Wolfhound games. Vet bedding can be placed ore them if you wish, but not necessary - good for in and out doors.</p> <p><a href="http://www.kurandadogbeds.co.uk/store/item/36d4i/Our_Beds/Newal_XX-Large_Aluminium_Bed_Blue_Fabric.html">http://www.kurandadogbeds.co.uk/store/item/36d4i/Our_Beds/Newal_XX-Large_Aluminium_Bed_Blue_Fabric.html</a></p>
	<p><b>Puppy food</b> – you will be given a sack of Complete food that your puppy is already used to eating and you can always obtain more from me. If you decide to change the puppy's food, please ensure that it meets the requirements of an IW puppy, as not all foods will. See the Bonaforte website for details. The diet of my hounds has been carefully thought about, and the combination of the Salmon and Potato plus the extra daily handful of Royal Canin works really well. In addition we advise adding raw foods to the diet.</p>

	<p><b>Food and water bowls</b> – there are a variety of bowls available, but initially your puppy will be eating and drinking from floor level so ensure you have a sturdy, non-slip bowl for both eating and drinking from. Ceramic bowls have a good weight and will stay put, but also stainless steel bowls can be used if on a non-slip surface. Consider buying a non-spill bowl for water inside the puppy’s pen/crate, or buckets with double ended clips.</p> <p><a href="http://www.dogproductsdirect.com/index.php?main_page=index&amp;cPath=84_34">http://www.dogproductsdirect.com/index.php?main_page=index&amp;cPath=84_34</a></p>
	<p><b>Puppy chew toys</b> – Wolfhound puppies love to chew and starting teething very early on so have some things to hand that are safe for your puppy to play with and gnaw on. Many toys are NOT suitable to be used for teething puppies, so shop around. Many of the Nylabone and Kong toys are fine to be chewed and also the Tuffy brand of toys can be used, as long as they are the highest ranking ‘tuffness’ scale. Most can be bought from pet shops and on websites such as Ebay and Amazon.</p>
	<p><b>Collar and lead</b> – although Wolfhound puppies should not be walked until they are 6 months old, you will need a suitable collar and lead quite early on as they do need to be taken out and about and socialized (once their vaccinations are complete). For the first few weeks a soft, adjustable collar is fine and a clip-on lead that is comfortable to hold in your hand will also suffice. There are lots of lovely collars about and one of my favourites is the fleece covered adjustable collar available from <a href="http://www.xtradog.com">www.xtradog.com</a>. Later on you may want to invest in a head collar that limits the dog from pulling and again there are several versions on the market, but we prefer the Dogmatic head collar (<a href="http://www.dogmatic.org.uk">www.dogmatic.org.uk</a>) for comfort and control. By law your dog must also have a ID tag on it’s collar when it is out of the house, but NEVER leave a collar on a Wolfhound at home!</p>
	<p><b>Floor mats</b> – any hard floor is generally not suitable for Wolfhound puppies as they easily slip and can injury themselves severely so putting some kind of mats down is essential. Find some that are easy to throw in the washing machine such as the Dirt Trapper mats or the rubber-backed mats by Initial and found online (<a href="http://www.splendidpets.co.uk">www.splendidpets.co.uk</a>) or if you have access to Costco, they do some excellent no slip mats, which withstand bleach, flash, and being hosed down.</p>

	<p><b>Training</b> – you can start training your puppy almost immediately at home with simple commands and this will also help with toilet training, but enrolling on a local dog training course is vital and will help enormously in the long term. An audible dog whistle is also very helpful.</p> <p>If you do not know of any classes in your area then check the Kennel Club’s website for details of the Good Citizen’s Dog Scheme nearby (<a href="http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/item/2543">http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/item/2543</a>). You can also contact Sharon Lake, who will help put you in touch with a trainer in your area:</p> <p><a href="http://www.cfba.co.uk/sharonlake.html">http://www.cfba.co.uk/sharonlake.html</a>  <a href="http://pawprints.vpweb.co.uk/About-Us.html">http://pawprints.vpweb.co.uk/About-Us.html</a></p>
	<p><b>Vets and vaccinations</b> – your puppy will have already received its first vaccination and will also be microchipped when you take it home (these were done when the puppy was tested for liver shunt). You will need to register your new puppy at a local vet of your choice and also arrange for the puppy to have its second vaccination when it is 10 weeks old (some vets may advise waiting until 12 weeks old for this). When at the vets also ask for some worming tablets and check the worming schedule in your puppy folder for details of when you need to administer this.</p>
	<p><b>Paperwork</b> – there is a variety of paperwork in your folder and you will be amazed how little time you have to look at it when your new puppy comes home! Please ensure you have your vaccination record card and take it with you to the vets and also check the worming schedule. You will also need to transfer the puppy into your ownership and the details for that are on the Kennel Club Registration Form – it can be transferred online or by post. Also ensure that you have registered your puppy’s microchip with the relevant database, either online or by post – see your puppy folder for details.</p>