

Contents

Intro..... 2

Crates/Kennels ..... 3

Dental Products..... 4

Dog Food ..... 7

Dog Toys ..... 9

Dog Treats ..... 11

Food and Water Bowls ..... 12

Grooming Products ..... 13

Leashes, Collars, Harnesses, and Boots ..... 15

Litter Products (potty pads, stain/odor removers, etc)..... 17

Training..... 19

BRR - Dog Care Guide

Last Edited 10/9/23

## Intro




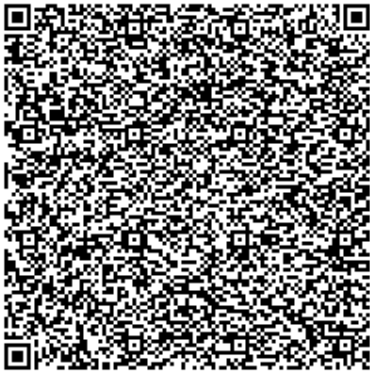


Hi! Welcome! I have put together this guide to provide you with information on certain topics and help you select quality products for your loved dogs. The products selected in this guide are those that I have or would purchase for my own dogs. As an Amazon Associate, I earn from qualifying purchases when you purchase using the links I have provided. I would like to let you know that I greatly appreciate it when you purchase through the links that I have provided. I have spent many hours curating this guide and I hope that it in turn helps save you time and money to select quality products for your dogs. Please note that I am not a veterinarian and this document does not constitute medical advice.

If you come across any issues with links or the actual products listed herein, please let me know! Also, please take note of the last edited date (located at the top of each page) and check if you have the latest release which will be posted to my website. Thank you!

\*Item/sample of item is included in the Puppy Pack when you bring your puppy home

## Crates/Kennels

A kennel is a necessity for potty training your puppy. I recommend 42" tall kennels for Standard Australian Shepherds. A female will fit in a 36" tall kennel, but there is not enough room for a full-grown male to be comfortable in that size. Some kennels come with a divider to make the kennel smaller for a puppy, but I never used the divider that came with ours, but it may prevent them from making one corner into a litter box. I highly recommend kennels with dual doors, so that if you decide to put the kennel in a location that makes one door inaccessible you still have another door that you can open. Below is a list of my recommendations.

Item Description	Paid Link
<p>Amazon: MidWest Homes 42" Wire Dog Crate with dual doors \$80 (8/12/23)</p> 	 <p>Scan above or select <a href="#">HERE</a></p>
<p>Amazon: BestPet 42" Wire Dog Crate with Dual Doors Available in Black Blue or Pink \$32 + \$20shipping (8/12/23)</p> 	 <p>Scan above or select <a href="#">HERE</a></p>
<p>Amazon: Amazon Basics 42" Wire Dog Crate with Dual Doors \$85 (8/12/23)</p> 	 <p>Scan above or select <a href="#">HERE</a></p>

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## Dental Products



“When a pet develops dental disease, significant quantities of bacteria reside within the mouth and the oral tissues. These bacteria can enter the bloodstream and travel to other areas within the body, causing distant or systemic effects. There are three organs that are especially susceptible to the spread of oral bacteria: the heart, the liver, and the kidneys” (VCA Animal Hospital, <https://vcahospitals.com/know-your-pet/dental-disease-and-its-relation-to-systemic-disease-in-pets>).

A dental regimen needs to start as soon as you bring your puppy home. I know brushing your dog’s teeth sounds like a pain, but it will pay back in dividends to your dog’s health and expensive vet bills. AVMA states that the average dog has early signs of periodontal disease by age 3 (<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/pet-owners/petcare/pet-dental-care>).

It is recommended to brush your dog’s teeth everyday with a minimum once a week. I started all our dogs out as soon as they came home by getting accustomed to a toothbrush. I recommend a regular (human) soft toothbrush below because I have tried the finger brushes (which were too difficult to get to the inside of the teeth) and toothbrushes shaped to cover the entire dogs tooth (which my dogs would clamp their teeth onto, making it near impossible to complete a brush stroke). Our dogs are now very comfortable with teeth brushing and are desensitized enough that I can perform scaling at home without paying expensive anesthesia bills for dental cleanings. After each teeth brushing session my dogs are rewarded with a dental chew which they are quite eager for.

Dental chews should be given once a day, as mentioned before, I provide them as a reward after brushing my dogs’ teeth or for going to their bed at night. I have listed a few varieties below that we have tried and our dogs have liked.

In my opinion, raw bones are a great resource for dogs to clean their own teeth. The issue most often given about raw bones is that your dog could chip or break a tooth on it. If you have multiple dogs, they may also fight over bones. Please always supervise them with raw bones. An alternative to raw bones are dental toys which my dogs have not shown very much interest in. The dental toys are typically plastic, which I would rather they not spend a lot of time chewing on anyways because they may contain BPA or BPS (endocrine/hormone disruptors), but I am far less concerned about the impact of BPA or BPS than the effects of periodontal disease.

Item Description	Paid Link
<p>*Amazon: Purina Dental Life Dog Large 18 ct \$10 (8/28/23)</p> 	 <p>Scan above or select <a href="#">HERE</a></p>

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Amazon: Greenies Dental Chews Regular 36 ct  
\$39 (8/28/23)



Scan above or select [HERE](#)

Amazon: Pedigree Dentastix Large Mint 36 ct  
\$17 (8/28/23)



Scan above or select [HERE](#)

\*Amazon: Vet's Best Dog Toothpaste 3.5 oz  
\$8 (8/28/23)



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Amazon: Petrodex dog toothpaste 6.2oz  
\$11 (8/28/23)



Scan above or select [HERE](#)

\*Amazon: knee cap bones 10ct  
\$22 (8/28/23)



Scan above or select [HERE](#)

\*Amazon: Bamboo toothbrushes 10ct  
\$9 (8/28/23)



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## Dog Food

Dog food selection is extremely important for the longevity of your dog. I like to alternate between certain dry dog foods so that my dogs get variety in their diet. Whenever you change your dog to a new food, please follow the instructions on the bag for phasing out the old food, this will reduce the likelihood of your dog feeling sick because its digestive system is not accustomed to the new food. In 2019, the FDA reported increased incidences of heart disease in breeds without a known genetic predisposition. The FDA found a correlation that more than 90% of the food fed to these dogs were grain-free and there was also high relation to the ingredient's peas, lentils, and potatoes. <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/nutrition/fda-grain-free-diet-alert-dcm/> For this reason, I avoid grain-free dog foods. My go-to favorite dry dog food is Diamond Naturals Large Breed Formula because it includes a variety of antioxidant rich foods, includes probiotics, and includes glucosamine and chondroitin which are good for joint health especially when you have an active breed. I will list other varieties including puppy food below. It is generally recommended to keep your puppy on a puppy food until it is a year old, but please discuss it with your veterinarian.

I highly recommend Chewy Autoship or Amazon Subscribe and Save for getting your dog food delivered at the right interval to you with subscription savings. We have our Autoship set to every 3 weeks for 3 dogs, so for 1 dog you might be about 9-week intervals for a 40 lbs. bag.

I like to make fresh food for my dogs when I can because there are many lost nutrients in processed dog food. I also give them 1-2 tablespoons of Kefir per day to provide active probiotics to their system. If you have the time and money to do either or both, I believe it will pay dividends into the health of your dog; however, you MUST make sure the dog food recipe you are following has all the essential nutrients that your dog needs, PLEASE consult your veterinarian. I have included a link to a free recipe that might help you get started.

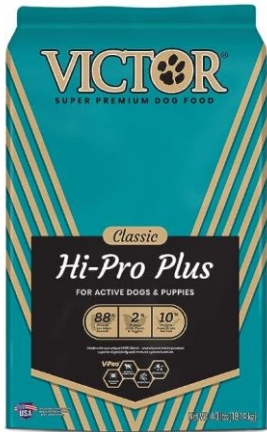
Item Description	Paid Link
<p>*Amazon: Diamond Naturals Large Breed Dog or Puppy Food \$47-\$58 for 40 lbs. (8/12/23)</p> 	 <p>Scan above or select <a href="#">HERE</a></p>

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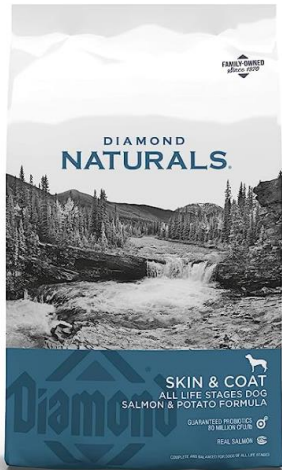
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Amazon: Victor Classis Hi-Pro Plus Dog and Puppy Food  
\$62 for 40 lbs. (8/12/23)



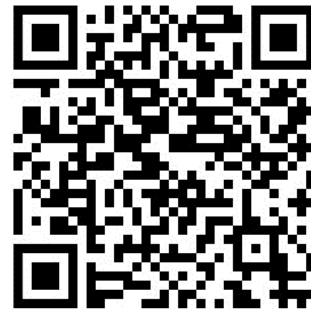
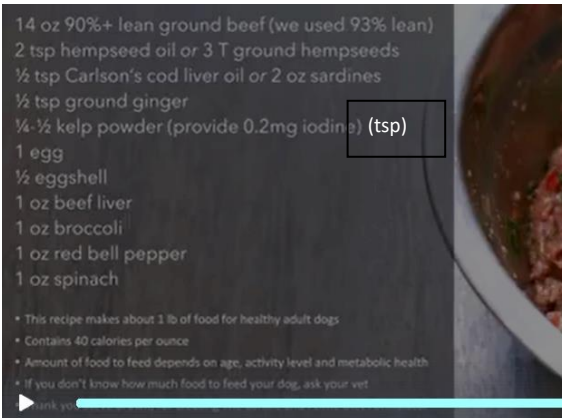
Scan above or select [HERE](#)

Amazon: Diamond Naturals Skin and Coat Salmon Dog Food  
\$46 for 30 lbs. (8/12/23)



Scan above or select [HERE](#)

PlanetPaws Balanced Dog Food Recipe Video



Scan above or select [HERE](#)

\*Item/sample of item is included in the Puppy Pack when you bring your puppy home



## Dog Toys

I've included a few of our favorite toys below. Our dogs' all time favorite toys are the Kong Jumbler and Outward Hound 6' Squeaky Snake. I highly recommend them because not only do our dogs love them, but they are also very durable. The snake eventually got torn up, but it lasted much longer than any other plush squeaky toy that we have purchased. The chuckit balls do not get destroyed unlike the tennis balls that we have tried. The packs of puppy toys suggested are the same toys that we purchased for the litter and while they are not as durable as the other suggestions, they do offer a popular assortment.

Item Description	Paid Link
<p>Amazon: 20 pack puppy toys \$15 (10/9/23)</p> 	 <p>Scan above or select <a href="#">HERE</a></p>
<p>Amazon: 20 pack puppy toys \$18 (10/9/23)</p> 	 <p>Scan above or select <a href="#">HERE</a></p>
<p>Amazon: Kong Jumbler \$15 (10/9/23)</p> 	 <p>Scan above or select <a href="#">HERE</a></p>

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Amazon: Outward Hound Invincibles Snake XL  
\$10 (10/9/23)



Scan above or select [HERE](#)

Amazon: Chuckit Ultra Ball Pack of 2  
\$5 (10/9/23)



Scan above or select [HERE](#)





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## Dog Treats

I have tried many many different dog treats for training and the absolute best treat that I found was chicken. I could not maintain the attention that I wanted from my dogs with any other treat than chicken, hence, that is why I did not include any recommendations for training treats. I cut it up into very small cubes because it doesn't take a lot to hold your dog's attention. Peanut butter is also a great option, you can get a spoonful of it and let your dog lick it a couple of times as a reward during training. Watch out for peanut butter that has Xylitol in it because it is poisonous to dogs. Please visit the [Dental Products](#) section for my recommendations on a daily dental treat.

## Food and Water Bowls





I like to use stainless steel bowls because they don't leach harmful chemicals into our dogs' food and water like plastic. I think glass is also a good option, but it is easy to break. Food and water bowls need to be cleaned regularly with soap and hot water to prevent bacteria from building up (bacteria from your dog's mouth will colonize on the bowls).

Item Description	Paid Link
<p>*Amazon: 32 oz Stainless steel bowl \$3 (8/30/23)</p> 	 <p>Scan above or select <a href="#">HERE</a></p>
<p>Amazon: stainless steel/silicone dog travel water bottle 27 oz \$16 (8/30/23)</p> 	 <p>Scan above or select <a href="#">HERE</a></p>

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## Grooming Products

My favorite brush is the rotating pin comb I've listed below. It is great at collecting shedding fur and detangling. I've also added a brush specific for shedding (still my go to is the pin comb). You will also need nail clippers unless you are going to take your pup to a groomer regularly. The nail clippers that I listed are the best that I have ever used and I highly recommend them. I've also included my choice for dog shampoo and paw balm.

Item Description	Paid Link
<p>*Amazon: rotating pin comb \$12 (8/30/23)</p> 	 <p>Scan above or select <a href="#">HERE</a></p>
<p>Amazon: self cleaning brush \$15 (8/30/23)</p> 	 <p>Scan above or select <a href="#">HERE</a></p>
<p>*Amazon: Burt's Bees 2 in 1 Dog Shampoo and Conditioner \$8 (8/30/23)</p> 	 <p>Scan above or select <a href="#">HERE</a></p>

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Amazon: dog nail clippers  
\$23 (8/30/23)



Scan above or select [HERE](#)

Amazon: Musher's secret paw balm  
\$16 (9/8/23)



Scan above or select [HERE](#)

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## Leashes, Collars, Harnesses, and Boots

We have an older version of the Kurgo Journey Harness with metal nesting buckles and I absolutely love it. The new Journey harnesses do not have the nesting buckles (they are more durable than regular buckles) so I have listed one below that has those buckles. I love that these harnesses have the option to secure your dog in the car and that they are crash tested so that you can feel confident that your dog is safe while traveling.

My favorite leashes are Canine Equipment hands free leashes, but they are no longer being sold so I have listed a similar option below from Ruffwear. My favorite thing about them is that they can be a normal leash but they can also loop around your waist for those times that you need the leash to be hands free. My favorite dog shoes are from Ruffwear so I know from that experience that they sell quality products.

As I just said, Ruffwear created my favorite dog shoes. I bought another set of 'cheap' dog boots and they are constantly falling off, but the ruffwear shoes stay secure on their feet. Our dogs are not out on concrete or asphalt when it is hot very often, but if you are ever in this situation you will need shoes for your dog. If the ground is too hot for you to walk barefoot then it is too hot for your dog! One test for this is to place the palm of your hand on the ground for 5 seconds and if it isn't comfortable to hold it there for the whole duration then don't let your dog walk on it! Ruffwear sells their shoes in packs of 2 (instead of 4) because your dog's front feet are a different size than their back feet. You will need to measure the size of their feet to ensure you purchase the right sizes.









I've also included some options for custom dog collars (because I'm not a fan of jangly tags).

Item Description	Paid Link
<p>Amazon: Kurgo Crash Tested Dog Harness (multiple size selections) \$40 (8/30/23)</p>  <p>Broad, padded chest plate for protection &amp; comfort</p> <p>Crash tested up to 75lbs</p> <p>Steel carabiner secures harness to seatbelt</p> <p>Metal nesting buckles are the same hardware used by rock climbers for safety &amp; durability</p>	 <p>Scan above or select <a href="#">HERE</a></p>

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<p>Amazon: Ruffwear Switchbak dog leash \$50 (9/8/23)</p> 	 <p>Scan above or select <a href="#">HERE</a></p>
<p>Amazon: Ruffwear Grip Trex Dog Boots 2 boots \$40 (9/8/23)</p> 	 <p>Scan above or select <a href="#">HERE</a></p>
<p>Amazon: Custom text dog collar \$20 (9/8/23)</p> 	 <p>Scan above or select <a href="#">HERE</a></p>
<p>Amazon: Custom text tactical style dog collar \$14 (9/8/23)</p> 	 <p>Scan above or select <a href="#">HERE</a></p>

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## Litter Products (potty pads, stain/odor removers, etc)

I personally prefer reusable pads because they don't create as much trash, but I have also included a disposable option because most people prefer disposable varieties. The options for pee pads that I have listed below are a better price than most puppy pads (because when you add the word 'puppy' it makes items more expensive). The reusable pads I listed are the ones that I use for whelping.

When you have a puppy there will be accidents. You will want to get a quality enzymatic stain and odor remover like the one I have listed below. Without the enzymes to breakdown dog urine molecules, the odor will stick around!

Item Description	Paid Link
<p>Amazon: Washable pee pads, different qtys available \$30 (4 pack, 9/8/23)</p> 	 <p>Scan above or select <a href="#">HERE</a></p>
<p>Amazon: disposable pee pad qty 100 \$17 (9/8/23)</p> 	 <p>Scan above or select <a href="#">HERE</a></p>

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Amazon: Rocco & Roxie Stain & Odor Eliminator  
Spray 32 oz (gallon size also available)  
\$20 (9/8/23)





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## Training

Learning how to train your dog is probably the single most important thing you can do for you and your dog! If you decide to get just one thing for your dog from this entire document then invest in one of these training options. I recommend enrolling in the Baxter & Bella training program, because it is written specifically for the transition from breeder to home, it goes all the way up to advanced training, and you have lifetime access to it!

Item Description	Paid Link
<p>Baxter &amp; Bella Training School Lifetime Membership With <b>BRR25</b> 25% off discount code \$179</p>  <p>USE CODE BRR25 FOR 25% OFF</p>	 <p><a href="https://www.baxterandbella.com/learn-more">https://www.baxterandbella.com/learn-more</a></p>
	 <p>Scan above or select <a href="#">HERE</a></p>

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