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# 8 Things to Pack in Your Dog's Backpack

by Caitlin Ultimo

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If you're a pet parent you know your pup's firsts are full of excitement and sometimes nausea-inducing worry—whether it's an impromptu doggie meet and greet or an initial jump off of the couch. If he's about to attend a training class or daycare for the first time, it's normal to want to send him off feeling secure.



What does a well-behaved dog need in those situations to make a good first impression and maintain star student status? Here are 8 must-have items to include in your dog's backpack.

## Flea and Tick Medication

Most training schools or daycares will require—or at least recommend—that your pet be treated with [flea medication](#) before attending. It may also be a good idea to perform [a tick treatment](#) as well, in case the training session is outdoors or if the daycare plans on taking your dog

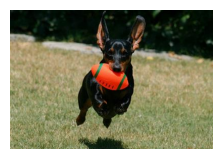
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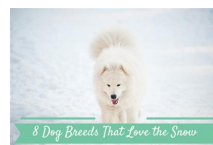
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for walks in tree-lined areas.

## Health and Vaccination Records

Come prepared with your dog's health history and vaccination records. Again, most schools and daycares require these documents. This rule will not only ensure your pet is in tip-top shape for his first day, but that his new fellow classmates (and maybe even newfound doggie besties!) are also healthy, preventing any dog-to-dog sicknesses.

## Emergency Contact Info

It's a good idea to leave more than just your own contact information with the staff, in case you can't make it to the phone right away or are unable to take the call. Three numbers on file should do the trick: Your number, your vet's number and a friend or family member that lives close by. You can also leave your email at the front desk, in case the staff wants to reach out to you about something that's not super urgent.

## Leash and Collar with Tags

Equipping your pup with **a leash** and **collar** is important when attending training sessions, especially for learning skills like heal, sit and down. Doggie daycares may provide standard breakaway collars with your dog's name in big writing (so it's easy to read if they haven't learned your dog's name yet), but it doesn't hurt to arrive in style with a collar and leash that shows off his personality.

## Camera

Okay, this one is more for you than him, but it doesn't hurt anyone to have a camera ready to take a few first-day photos! Snap your memorable moments before entering, to avoid distracting or alarming other dogs. Most schools and daycares recommend you stay and watch the first day to make sure your dog is comfortable. If you're sly with a phone-camera, you may be able to sneak in a few action shots.

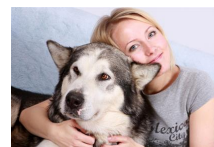
## Treats and/or Food

If your dog is on a special diet or has a picky palette, pack **his favorite treats** for training rewards or food for mealtimes. You don't want him to miss a meal because the food isn't to his liking.

## Blanket or Bed

Some daycares may allow your pet to bring along **his own bedding station** for break sessions. If your dog is not used to being away from you for longer periods of time it could be comforting to bring something familiar that smells like home for naps and quiet time.

## the Snow



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## Trending Conversations



**Heartguard do I need to give. In n.h. When it's freezing with snow**

by **Maddiegirl**  
1 Replies | 0 Paws Up



**Introduce Yourself!**

by **Rebecca**  
42 Replies | 0 Paws Up



**Our Kitties are Missing their Fur Daddy**

by **troublesniffer**  
1 Replies | 1 Paws Up

## Toys

Packing your pup's **favorite plaything** is a great reward for a first day-well-done. Just be sure to leave it for the ride home, as many facilities don't allow toys to prevent against cases of possessive behavior.

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