

# Bringing home your puppy

A simple checklist for their first week home — so the big day feels calm, not overwhelming.

## BEFORE PICKUP DAY

### Gather these first

- ☐ **Crate** sized for an adult Golden, with a divider for now
- ☐ **Soft bed** + a few washable blankets
- ☐ **Stainless steel bowls** for food & water
- ☐ The **same food** we've been feeding (we'll send details)
- ☐ **Flat collar**, ID tag & a light leash
- ☐ **Treat pouch** + a few safe teething chews
- ☐ A **brush** made for a thick double coat
- ☐ **Enzyme cleaner** for the inevitable accidents
- ☐ A few simple **toys** — a handful is plenty

## TEN MINUTES, DOWN ON THEIR LEVEL

- ☐ Tuck away cords; move low houseplants & anything small enough to swallow
- ☐ Choose the crate's spot and the potty spot before day one

## THE FIRST DAY & NIGHT

### Keep it calm and close

- ☐ Head straight to the **potty spot** when you arrive
- ☐ Let them explore **one room**, at their own pace
- ☐ Keep day one **small and quiet**
- ☐ **Hold off on the welcome party** — visitors can wait a few days
- ☐ First night: set the **crate right beside your bed**
- ☐ Expect a potty trip or two overnight — keep it boring and dark

## THE FIRST WEEK

### Find a gentle rhythm

- ☐ A loose, repeating shape to the day: **wake · potty · eat · play · potty · nap**
- ☐ Plenty of sleep — **16 to 18 hours a day**; build in real downtime
- ☐ Reward with their **own kibble**: potties, four paws on the floor, coming when called
- ☐ **Force-free always** — no prong collars, no shock
- ☐ Keep first lessons tiny: **5 minutes**, lots of fun (sit, come, their name)

#### KEEP THIS NUMBER HANDY

### One hour per month of age

A rough guide to bladder control — plus a trip outside after every wake-up, meal, drink, and play session. An 8-week-old needs to go out about every 2 hours.

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## THE FIRST VET VISIT

### Book it early

- ☐ Schedule a **wellness check** for the first few days home
- ☐ Bring the **folder we send**: vaccination & deworming records, microchip number, vet exam
- ☐ Keep it safe — it's part of your **2-year health guarantee** (hips, elbows, heart, eyes)

#### ONE LAST THING

Your puppy doesn't arrive as a blank slate. Weeks of early neurological stimulation and gentle socialization mean they already have a steady foundation underneath them — week one is simply about adding to it, gently.

Questions before the big day? We're always happy to chat. Join our waitlist at [ivoryandpinegoldens.com](https://ivoryandpinegoldens.com)

General guidance from our family as breeders, not a substitute for veterinary advice. Always confirm your puppy's specific feeding, vaccination, and care needs with your own veterinarian.