



We have compiled a basic starting supply list for your new puppy, along with affiliate links to examples. These are just suggestions, you may find other items that suit your needs better. As always, feel free to contact us with any questions.

1. Food and Water Bowls

The puppy should have access to water at all times and should be fed 2-3 times a day as a puppy. Water bowls/gravity dispensers should be shallow. We don't recommend using buckets or water troughs for water until the puppy is bigger because they can fall in and drown very easily. Plastic bowls are cheap but can be easily chewed, ceramic bowls are easy to clean but tend to be breakable, our recommendation is to use a sturdy stainless steel bowl for easy cleaning and durability. Several retailers sell these in two packs for around \$10-\$15. We like the [Loving Pets Bella Bowl](#) style.

2. Runner's Leash or Leash with D clip

Whether your puppy is going to be a pet or a working dog you will still need a way to keep control of them. A leash is an absolute must while you are training your puppy. At times you will need to use both of your hands and that can be difficult when you are holding onto a leash, so we recommend either getting a [runners leash](#) that goes around your waist or buying a regular leash and using a carabiner clip (D clip) to attach the leash to your belt or belt loops. We like to use [leashes like this rope style leash from BAAPET](#) because they are durable and can hold up to a puppy's chewing. Ideally, you want a leash no longer than 6 feet long when you are starting out, this keeps the puppy close to you while still giving you space and control. Later on, if you want to give them more freedom you can train them on a long line (10-20 feet).

3. Crate, Kennel, or Confinement area

An invaluable tool for your arsenal, a confinement area allows you to control what the puppy has access to. We use a mix of crates and kennels for training, but you can also use something like a barn stall.

Crate training allows you to potty train the dog and keep the dog out of trouble. It is also useful if they are injured or recovering from something like spay/neuter surgery where they are not allowed to be active. Crates can also be used for travel. There are a variety to choose from depending on your needs, but we recommend a folding metal crate with a divider like this one from [MidWest Homes for Pets](#). A divider allows you to change the size of the crate without having to buy a new crate every time your puppy grows. As Great Pyrenees are considered a giant breed we recommend getting the size 48 inch or larger crate. The metal crates will likely last the lifetime of your dog, and you can find people selling them cheaply all the time. Check out our sheet on training tips and tricks for how to get your puppy accustomed to a crate.

Kennels are also an excellent training resource. They are portable and can be placed in a pasture with the animals to expose your puppy to their stock without allowing harm to come to either party. The downside to kennels is they are more expensive, but that is because they tend to be a lot bigger than your average crate. We use a 10 ft x 10 ft kennel and place a dog house inside because ours does not have a covering for shelter. You can also get a kennel with a covering like [this one from JAXPETY](#). We recommend looking around at the different options and finding the best solution for you and your puppy.

4. Food

One of the most important supplies you will need is food! There are different ways to feed your puppy and a lot of that depends on you. We feed Costco brand dog kibble and supplementally feed raw. Some people prefer to feed 100% raw, and that's fine too. The important thing is that your puppy is getting a nutritious and balanced diet, and your best person to talk to will be your vet. Feeding large amounts of table scraps, junk / human food, or low-quality food can shorten the lifespan of your dog and cause obesity which will lead to other health problems

like hip dysplasia. Read the ingredient list on the bag of food you're buying or do a lot of research if you plan to feed raw. Contrary to popular belief, dogs are not strict carnivores. They need vegetables too, such as sweet potatoes, peas, carrots, green beans, etc. Great Pyrenees are also large breed dogs and therefore are prone to getting hip dysplasia. You can help to prevent this by not feeding them too much calcium as they are growing and by buying or preparing food suitable for a large breed puppy.

5. Training Treats

Dogs are very food motivated and this helps us with training them. Great Pyrenees are often picky when they're older but as puppies they love food. You can buy treats designed specifically for training or you can buy high-value items like lunch meat to use as training treats. If your puppy is picky you should definitely go for the higher value item like lunch meat. Keep in mind you want your training treats to be bite-sized, they shouldn't be chewing for a long time. You also want the treat to be low in calories because while training you might be giving them a lot of treats and you don't want to overfeed them. Another trick is using your puppy's meal as a treat. If they haven't had breakfast or dinner you can use their meal as a motivating factor during training, and give them a little bit at a time as you are training.

6. Medicine and Healthcare

This is not something you necessarily need to or even can get before you bring your puppy home, but it's something you should do soon after you bring your puppy home. Puppies get their vaccines at six weeks old, ten weeks old, and fourteen weeks old (3.5 months). We'll take care of the first sets of shots, but if you're picking up your puppy at twelve weeks you will need to get the final round of shots plus the puppy's rabies vaccine when they turn fourteen weeks old. You can use this opportunity to talk to your vet about optional vaccines, like Bordetella, Lyme's, and the rattlesnake vaccine for dogs.

Puppies are also prone to getting worms, particularly if they are working outside as livestock guardian dogs. We do our own fecals on our dogs, but we

still end up deworming 2-3 times a year. As puppies, they were dewormed at four weeks, eight weeks, and twelve weeks old. Beyond that, your vet might want to continue to deworm regularly. We use Bayer quad dewormer which is an over-the-counter dewormer, but you can also get a prescription dewormer (usually Drontal) from your vet. Safeguard, the same dewormer used for livestock can be used for dogs too. The only downside is that Safeguard does not treat tapeworms which are the most common worm that dogs get. Dogs with worms can become anemic, so it's important to stay on top of deworming.

Flea and tick medicine is also very important, and puppies can start when they are eight weeks old. Fleas can carry larvae from worms, so it's important to control the fleas to prevent worms. Ticks are not just gross and annoying, they can also spread tick-borne diseases to your dog, such as Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, ehrlichiosis, and tick paralysis. There are many options for flea and tick control. The oral prescription flea and tick tend to be the most effective but are also the priciest. Topical and collar flea and tick options are cheaper but are often less effective.

Dental care for dogs is just starting to come to the spotlight of veterinary healthcare, but it is a vital part of your dog's health. Brushing your dog's teeth a couple of times a week can prevent disease and rotting teeth.

At around 6-7 months of age, you're going to want to talk to your vet about getting on a heartworm preventative. Spaying and neutering can happen at almost any age, but some vets like to wait until they are older. We recommend talking to your vet about the best age for spaying and neutering. It can be a costly procedure, but [Loudoun Humane Society has a low-cost spay/neuter program](#), as does [Fauquier SPCA](#), and [Anicura in Manassas](#) (they have another location in Harrisonburg). If you don't live in the area you can check local human societies in your area for similar programs.

It's also not a bad idea to have your own pet first aid kit, and you can usually build it with things you already have in your house. Check out this [list by the ASPCA](#) for some inspiration.

7. Chew Toys

Puppies, like human babies, have baby teeth that come in starting around four weeks of age. It's not always a comfortable experience and while they teethe your puppy might try to alleviate the feeling by chewing on anything they can find. We have had our dogs chew barn stalls, internet cables, carpets, and more. It can be frustrating, especially if they destroy stuff in the process. Your best option is to limit what they have access to (remember the crate and kennel suggestions?) and to provide them with something they can safely chew. When choosing chew toys make sure they are appropriate for puppies, but also make sure they're not too small.

Great Pyrenees are larger puppies and if the toy is too small they could swallow it and choke on it. If you have other dogs make sure that they can't choke on the puppy toys either. When in doubt, go for the larger size. [Nylabone has a good puppy chew toy starter pack](#) that comes with toys for the freezer. When you freeze the toys before giving them to your teething puppy it can help soothe their gums. For power chewers, we recommend [Kong rubber chewing toys](#). They have a whole line of puppy chew toys in a variety of shapes and sizes, and they allow you to sneak a treat like peanut butter inside the toy. This can keep the puppy occupied for longer, especially if you freeze the toy with the treat inside.

8. ID Tag

Your puppy will come microchipped and with a collar, but you will still need the ID tag. There are many options to choose from, you can pick something up at your local pet store or you can get personalized collars or QR tags online. Depending on where you live there may be certain laws in regards to what you need to have on your ID tag. On our LGD's tags we have their name, the name of our farm, and their role (Livestock Guardian Dog), in addition to a bunch of phone numbers for people to get in contact with us.

9. Grooming Products

You probably won't have to do too much grooming while they are young, but Great Pyrenees are seasonal shedders. Every summer, usually around Memorial Day weekend they start blowing out their coat. Calypso has a working coat, meaning we have very little to do to help her shed her winter coat. Voltaire on the other hand requires a [de-shedding shampoo](#) and [conditioner](#), along with a good brushing. We keep [detangler](#) on hand in case he gets any tangled or mats as well. We expect that your puppy will be somewhere in the middle.

An [undercoat rake like this one](#) is a must for getting the undercoat out. A [de-matting comb](#) is also a good idea. If you really dislike grooming you can always take your dog to the groomer's early in the summer season. It's expensive to go to a groomer's instead of managing it yourself, but you shouldn't have to do it very often.

You will also need to take care of your puppy's nails. Great Pyrenees have the regular four nails on each paw, plus an additional single dewclaw on each front paw and a double dewclaw on each back claw. That's 22 nails total that you need to take care of. A once-a-month [clipping with nail cutters](#) will usually suffice, but you can get a Dremel to file down the nail if you prefer. Dogs are never a fan, but the presence of treats makes them much more agreeable. If you hate doing it, this is something you can also get down at a groomer's or while you're at the vet. It's relatively inexpensive, usually around \$10 - \$15. It's important to keep on top of the dog's nails, particularly their dewclaws, because they can grow into the paw and get infected. If the dewclaws are too much trouble your vet can perform a procedure to remove them, but it's usually not recommended unless there is a problem.

10. Cleaning Products

Cleaning products are not quite as necessary for the LGD owner, but you should still have a few products. If your puppy is destined for a pampered pet life inside, you will most definitely have accidents. A good cleaner for inside will use enzymes to help cover up any lingering odors. In our house, we use [Rocco & Roxie Stain and Odor Eliminator](#).

Whether your dog is going to be a pet or an LGD, at some point they will be out and about at the vet's or elsewhere. It's embarrassing when you don't have a bag at the ready, so we recommend having at least one [poop bag and dispenser](#) for when you take your dog out. On a farm what you really need is a shovel, rake, or [poop scooper](#). You might already have these items. A muck bucket works as well. For the puppies in the barn, we use a muck bucket and rake, mix it with used straw, and then cover grass seed in pastures that we're regrowing. It's gross but effective. Like all poop dog stools have bacteria in them that can be potentially infectious. You want to keep any area clean where children might be playing just to be cautious.

Optional Supplies to Consider

- **Cameras**

Nanny cams are useful for observing your puppy when you can't be with them. You can get indoor and outdoor cameras, wifi-enabled, solar-powered, etc. Not a necessity but it's a good tool if you can get it.

- **Hotwire / Invisible Fence**

All LGDs are known for their mastery of escaping. While we don't recommend invisible-only fences, combining a physical fence with an invisible fence or hot wire can help contain escape artists. We recommend implementing these systems while they're young before they begin to test their boundaries during their adolescent years. That way the first time they test the fence will be the last. Hotwire can also deter predators that can climb, such as bears and raccoons. You can get both products at most local farm stores or online, and hot wire does come in a solar option if you don't electricity to your pastures.

- **Clicker**

A [clicker](#) is a cheap tool that is used for training. Whenever your dog does what they're supposed to you press on the clicker and it makes a "click" sound. Then

you give the dog a treat. They begin to associate treats with this noise. You can read more about [clicker training here](#).

- **Head halter**

We have never had a problem with our LGDs pulling on their leash, but it is a common problem for our house dogs. A head halter teaches the dog not to pull and can help you to train your dog to heel. We recommend the [Gentle Leader](#) because that is what we use on our dogs and have had good results. It also comes with a training CD.

- **Dog bed**

While our LGDs are happy to make a bed out of straw, we do have elevated pet beds for when we are training “place” or when the ground gets too hard or cold. [Frisco](#) sells a reasonably priced elevated bed that can be used outside, and you can also buy a [canopy for the K&H](#) elevated bed if you want to provide some shade.