Rottweiler Puppy Checklist

Your first weeks with a powerful working companion

Shopping list | Large-breed growth gear and sturdy crate
First-night plan | Daily routine | Vet worksheet
Joint-smart exercise | Socialization and manners
Toxic foods | Emergency numbers | Socialization tracker

Free from Rottweiler Daily. General education only; it does not replace advice from your veterinarian.

Some guides on our site may contain affiliate links; this checklist has none.

1. Shopping list

Must-haves before pickup. Nice-to-haves can wait.

Must-have before pickup

- [ ] Sturdy crate with a divider, sized for a large-breed adult
- [ ] Washable bedding (nothing your puppy can shred and swallow)
- [ ] Large-breed puppy food recommended by your vet or the breeder/rescue (ask before changing formulas)
- [ ] Heavy, tip-resistant food and water bowls
- [ ] Well-fitted harness or sturdy collar, ID tag and phone number
- [ ] Strong 4 to 6 foot leash and poop bags
- [ ] Enzymatic cleaner for accidents
- [ ] Sturdy chew toys rated for powerful chewers; supervise and retire damaged toys
- [ ] Soft brush, nail tools and ear-cleaning supplies your vet recommends
- [ ] Non-slip rugs or runners for slick floors
- [ ] Training treats: small, soft, pea-sized
- [ ] Treat pouch for frequent rewards during manners work
- [ ] Baby gates rated for a growing, strong puppy
- [ ] Dog-safe shampoo and a dog toothbrush with dog toothpaste

Nice to have, can wait

- [ ] Thick orthopedic bed suited to a large dog
- [ ] Vehicle ramp if your puppy will ride in a tall vehicle (ask your vet about jumping)
- [ ] Slow-feeder bowl if your puppy gulps
- [ ] Long line for supervised recall practice in a safe area
- [ ] Puppy class signup with a force-free trainer (ask your vet when it is safe to start)

Breed tip: Rottweilers grow quickly into strong adults. Controlled growth, early socialization and manners matter. This is general education, not a diagnosis—ask your veterinarian about diet, exercise and screening for your own puppy.

2. First-night plan

Calm and predictable beats exciting.

Before bedtime

- [ ] Last meal a couple of hours before bed (follow your vet's plan)
- [ ] Last potty break right before bed, quietly, with a treat
- [ ] Crate or pen near you so your puppy can hear you
- [ ] Soft bedding and one safe chew; no loose swallowable items
- [ ] Quiet, dim room at a comfortable temperature
- [ ] Water available as your vet advises

During the night

- [ ] Plan one or two overnight potty trips at first
- [ ] Keep night trips boring: no play, straight back to bed
- [ ] Check whether whining is a potty need, then settle calmly
- [ ] Do not leave a truly distressed puppy to cry for long periods
- [ ] Note times in the potty log later in this booklet

Morning

- [ ] Straight outside for a potty break, with a treat
- [ ] Breakfast, then another potty break
- [ ] Short play and training, then a nap

Reminder: Puppies sleep a lot. Call your vet if your puppy seems lethargic, refuses food, or has vomiting or diarrhea.

3. A sample daily routine

Adjust to your household and your vet's feeding advice.

Time of day	What happens
Wake	Straight outside to potty, treat
Breakfast	Meal, then potty break
Play + training	A few short, reward-based sessions
Nap	Crate or pen
Wake + potty	Out immediately after waking
Midday meal	If your vet advises 3 or more meals
Play + nap	Repeat the cycle
Dinner	Last meal a couple of hours before bed
Evening	Calm social time and chewing
Last potty	Right before bed
Bedtime	Crate near you

Rule of thumb: Potty after waking, after eating, after play, and about every hour or two when awake and young. Reward in the potty spot. Every puppy is different.

4. Puppy-proofing

Get down to puppy height.

Living areas

- [ ] Electrical cords tucked or covered
- [ ] Houseplants moved or checked for toxicity
- [ ] Small objects, socks, remote controls out of reach
- [ ] Trash cans secured
- [ ] Gates up for stairs and off-limit rooms
- [ ] Plan furniture access with a ramp, pet stairs or lifting—ask your vet what fits this breed

Kitchen, bath, yard

- [ ] Cleaners and medicine secured
- [ ] Chocolate, grapes, xylitol gum and human food stored away
- [ ] Fence gaps checked; pools and ponds secured
- [ ] Toxic plants, antifreeze and pest poisons locked away
- [ ] Vet and emergency clinic numbers saved in your phone

Talk to your vet: Rottweilers grow quickly into strong adults. Controlled growth, early socialization and manners matter. This is general education, not a diagnosis—ask your veterinarian about diet, exercise and screening for your own puppy.

5. Vet visit worksheet

Book a first visit within the first few days, or as your health guarantee requires.

Bring

- [ ] Health records, vaccine and deworming history
- [ ] A stool sample if asked
- [ ] Food name and feeding amounts
- [ ] Your list of questions

Questions to ask

- [ ] Which vaccines does my puppy need, and when?
- [ ] Which parasite preventives (fleas, ticks, heartworm) should we use?
- [ ] How much and how often should I feed, and how do we track body condition?
- [ ] When do you recommend spay or neuter, and why?
- [ ] What signs mean I should call you right away?
- [ ] What is your emergency policy? Which 24-hour clinic do you recommend?
- [ ] What socialization is safe before vaccines are finished?
- [ ] Is this large-breed puppy food and feeding amount appropriate?
- [ ] When should we talk about hip and elbow screening?
- [ ] What activity is safe while my puppy is still growing?
- [ ] What signs of bloat (GDV) should I know for a deep-chested dog?

Notes:

6. Vaccine and preventive tracker

Your vet sets the schedule. Fill in dates.

Date	Vaccine / preventive	Vet initials	Next due

Typical items to track: core vaccines (your vet will list them), rabies as required locally, heartworm prevention, flea and tick prevention, deworming and microchip details.

7. Growth, joints and early manners

Fast-growing large breeds need measured food, sensible exercise and lots of positive socialization.

Controlled growth

- [ ] Feed a large-breed puppy diet your vet is comfortable with
- [ ] Measure meals; avoid free-feeding
- [ ] Ask before adding joint supplements—your vet decides if and when
- [ ] Weigh regularly and track body condition, not just the scale number

Exercise and floors

- [ ] Prefer short play sessions over forced long runs while growth plates are open
- [ ] Limit repetitive jumping from cars or furniture; use a ramp if needed
- [ ] Add traction on slick floors to reduce slipping
- [ ] Ask your vet what activity is appropriate at each stage

Socialization and handling

- [ ] Plan many short, positive meetings with people and calm dogs (as your vet advises pre-vaccines)
- [ ] Practice gentle handling of mouth, paws, ears and collar
- [ ] Start loose-leash manners early—pulling gets harder as they grow
- [ ] Agree on household rules (furniture, greeting, chewing) and stay consistent

Talk to your veterinarian before changing diet, exercise or home care routines. Individual puppies vary.

8. Toxic foods and plants

Not a complete list. If your puppy eats something risky, call right away.

Foods and household items to keep away

- [ ] Chocolate and cocoa
- [ ] Grapes and raisins
- [ ] Xylitol (sugar-free gum, some peanut butters, candy)
- [ ] Onions, garlic, chives
- [ ] Macadamia nuts
- [ ] Alcohol and raw yeast dough
- [ ] Caffeine
- [ ] Cooked bones and corn cobs
- [ ] Human medications
- [ ] Cleaning products, antifreeze, rodent poison

Plants often listed as toxic to dogs

- [ ] Sago palm
- [ ] Azalea and rhododendron
- [ ] Oleander
- [ ] Tulip and daffodil bulbs
- [ ] Autumn crocus
- [ ] Check the ASPCA toxic plant list for your garden

Categories drawn from ASPCA Animal Poison Control and common veterinary guidance. Absence from a list does not mean safe. Always call.

9. Emergency numbers

Fill this in today. Stick a copy on the fridge.

My vet _____

My vet's after-hours number _____

Nearest 24-hour emergency vet _____

Emergency vet address _____

Breeder or rescue _____

Pet insurance policy and claim number _____

Microchip number and registry _____

Trusted neighbor or sitter _____

Poison hotlines (a consultation fee may apply)

ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center: (888) 426-4435
Pet Poison Helpline: (855) 764-7661

Call your vet or emergency clinic right away for

- ☐ Trouble breathing, collapse or seizure
- ☐ Repeated vomiting or diarrhea, or blood
- ☐ Eating something toxic or a foreign object
- ☐ Heavy panting, drooling or weakness in the heat
- ☐ Pale gums, extreme lethargy or refusing food and water
- ☐ Unproductive retching, swollen abdomen, restlessness or sudden collapse (possible bloat—emergency)
- ☐ Sudden lameness, reluctance to rise, or severe pain after activity

10. Socialization and training tracker

Keep experiences positive and short. Ask your vet what is safe before vaccines are complete.

Experience	Date	Reaction (calm / unsure)
New people (different ages, hats, uniforms)		
Children (calm, supervised)		
Other vaccinated, friendly dogs		
Car rides		
Different floor surfaces		
Grooming: brush, paws, ears, nails		
Handling: mouth, paws, collar		
Vacuum, doorbell, household sounds		
Crate and being alone briefly		
Wearing a collar and harness		
Leash walking at home		
Calm greetings		

Skills to teach

- [ ] Name
- [ ] Sit
- [ ] Down
- [ ] Come (recall)
- [ ] Leave it
- [ ] Drop it
- [ ] Crate settle
- [ ] Loose-leash walking
- [ ] Wait at doors and stairs

11. Weight log

Weigh at vet visits or on a home scale. Share the trend with your vet.

Date	Age (weeks)	Weight

Do not chase an exact number. Growth varies. Ask your vet whether weight and body condition are on track for your puppy.

12. Potty log

Mark O = outside, A = accident.

Date / time	Pee or poop	O or A	Notes