First Week Pet Checklist

Pet Radius • Essential Setup & Transition Guide for New Pet Owners

> Bringing a new pet home is a major transition. Use this step-by-step checklist to ensure a safe, calm, and structured setup during your pet's critical first week.

DAYS 1–2: ARRIVAL & SAFE SPACE

- [ ] **Establish a Quiet Zone**
  Set up a dedicated crate, room, or bed in a low-traffic area with access to fresh water and familiar bedding.
- [ ] **Home & Yard Safety Sweep**
  Ensure cleaning supplies, toxic plants, wires, and small chewable objects are secured out of reach.
- [ ] **Initial Bathroom & Potty Routine**
  Take dogs immediately to their designated potty spot outside before bringing them indoors. Place cats directly in their litter box area.

DAYS 3–5: ROUTINE & BONDING

- [ ] **Maintain Consistent Feeding Times**
  Feed fixed meals at the same time each day using food recommended by the rescue or breeder to avoid stomach upset.
- [ ] **Gentle Exercise & Play**
  Engage in short, positive play or short leash walks. Avoid busy dog parks or high-stress public spaces early on.

DAYS 6–7: HEALTH & LONG-TERM SETUP

- [ ] **Wellness Exam & Microchip Check**
  Visit your local vet for an initial baseline health checkup and ensure ID tags and microchip info are registered.
- [ ] **Review House Rules**
  Ensure all household members follow identical boundaries regarding furniture access, feeding treats, and basic training cues.