Welcome to the rewarding journey of rescuing a dog! This checklist is designed to help you prepare for the arrival of your new furry friend and ensure a smooth transition into your home.

**ESSENTIALS**

Comfort and care start here: everything your rescue dog needs to feel at home.

- **Food and Water Bowls**: Non-tip and easy to clean.
- **Dog Food**: Consult with a vet for the best diet.
- **Collar and ID Tag**: With your phone number and dog’s name.
- **Leash**: Sturdy and comfortable.
- **Dog Bed**: Suitable for your dog’s size.
- **Crate**: For safe transport and a secure space at home.
- **Toys**: A mix of chew toys, interactive toys, and comfort toys.
- **Grooming Supplies**: Brush, nail clippers, shampoo.

**HEALTHCARE**

Prioritize your rescue’s health from day one with these vital healthcare steps.

- **Veterinary Check-up**: Schedule an initial visit.
- **Vaccination Records**: Obtain from the rescue center.
- **Microchip Information**: Ensure it’s updated with your contact details.
- **Spay/Neuter Status**: Confirm and schedule if needed.
- **Flea and Tick Prevention**: As recommended by the vet.
- **Dental Care Supplies**: Toothbrush and toothpaste for dogs.
Making your home a safe space is the first step in your journey together.

- **Dog-Proofing Your Home**: Secure trash cans, remove toxic plants, and hide electrical cords.
- **Safe Space**: Designate an area where your dog can feel secure.
- **Anxiety Relief**: Consider calming aids if your dog shows signs of anxiety.

Training and socialization are keys to unlocking a well-adjusted, happy pet.

- **Basic Training**: Commands like sit, stay, come.
- **House Training**: Consistent schedule and positive reinforcement.
- **Socialization Plan**: Gradual introduction to other pets and people.

Be prepared for anything with these emergency essentials.

- **Emergency Contact Info**: Vet, nearest animal hospital.
- **Pet First Aid Kit**: Basic supplies for minor injuries.
- **Evacuation Plan**: In case of emergency, know where to go with your pet.

From travel to daily care, these additional items ensure you’re ready for any adventure with your dog.

- **Travel Supplies**: For safe and comfortable trips.
- **Dietary and Activity Journal**: To track your dog’s food intake and exercise.
- **Insurance**: Consider pet insurance for unexpected health issues.