Toffee's New Shih Tzu Parent Checklist

Bringing home a little Shih Tzu? Yayyy! You're about to welcome a whole lot of love, fluff and mischief into your life.❤️

Before your little Shih Tzu arrives, here are a few things my Amma and Appa learnt while raising me. Make sure you're prepared! ❤️

1. **Get Your Home Ready**
   - Prepare a cosy sleeping space for your puppy.
   - Keep non-slip rugs on slippery floors.
   - Puppy-proof wires, balconies and stairs.
   - Keep medicines and tiny objects out of reach.
   - Get pee pads, toys and essential supplies ready

2. **Feeding & Nutrition**
   - Choose age-appropriate, good-quality puppy food.
   - Soak kibble if recommended by your vet.
   - Use comfortable feeding bowls at a suitable height.
   - Introduce new foods one at a time.

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- Check with your vet before trying new fruits and treats.
- Keep chocolate, grapes, raisins and other toxic foods away.

3. **Grooming & Hygiene**
   - Brush your puppy's fluffy coat regularly.
   - Clean around their eyes and face daily.
   - Keep their ears, paws and nails clean.
   - Maintain regular baths and professional grooming.
   - Don't forget their dental hygiene!

4. **Health & Wellness**
   - Follow the vaccination and deworming schedule.
   - Maintain flea and tick prevention.
   - Monitor your puppy's weight, appetite and behaviour.

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- Never ignore unusual sneezing, breathing or discomfort.
- Schedule regular vet visits and follow-ups.

5. **Car Travel & Adventures**
   - Start with short car rides and gradually increase the duration.
   - Use a secure pet carrier or car seat.
   - Watch out for motion sickness and vomiting.
   - Ask your vet about travel sickness and suitable SOS medication.
   - Carry water and travel essentials.
   - Never leave your puppy alone in a parked car.

6. **Paws, Hips & Mobility**
   - Avoid encouraging excessive jumping.
   - Make slippery floors safer.
   - Watch for limping or unusual sitting positions.
   - Don't force strenuous activities.
   - Provide gentle, age-appropriate playtime.

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7. **Training & Playtime**
   - Start potty training early.
   - Teach basic commands with patience.
   - Introduce new people and surroundings gradually
   - Give enough rest between play sessions.
   - Make time for bonding, cuddles and play.

8. **Love & Emotional Care**
   - Be patient while your puppy grows and learns.
   - Remember that every puppy is different.
   - Never compare their milestones with another puppy's.
   - Notice even the smallest changes in their behaviour.
   - Celebrate their little achievements.
   - Give them a lifetime of love, care and security!

🐶 **One Last Thing, Hoomans!**

Raising a little Shih Tzu is a beautiful journey, but it comes with responsibilities too!

Observe your puppy, understand their needs, follow your vet's advice and never ignore the little things.

Remember, your puppy may be just one little part of your life, but you are their whole world! ❤️

Lots of licks and tiny pawprints,

Your Toffee 🐾❤️