

What to do PRIOR to Bringing Home Your Min Pin

Let's assume that you have done all your homework. You have read about the Breed, attended dog shows and talked with exhibitors. You have taken all your newly gained knowledge and spent some hours giving it a lot of thought. You've made the decision to obtain a Miniature Pinscher and have contacted and visited several Professional Breeders. You have found "your" Miniature Pinscher and will be bringing him/her home in a week. Now what??

Regard the following as a grocery list for a very particular, very special and well-planned meal. Can you pick and choose from the list - leaving off what may be hard to obtain? Of course not - it would turn out just awful. The same principal applies to your new Min Pin . You need the whole list so the resultant homecoming is a wonderful experience for both you and your dog.

Place a check mark in the box provided as you take care of each item.

o 1. Dog Food

(Although you should expect the Breeder to send a small supply along with your dog, NOW is the time to buy a normal amount of exactly what the dog has been eating.)

o 2. Food Dish

(Make every attempt to get exactly the same as the dog is accustomed to eating from. The same goes for the water bowl)

o 3. Water Bowl

o 4. Dog Crate

(Ask the Breeder what size dog crate to get - the dog should be able to stand up, with it's head erect.)

o 5. Bedding for Dog Crate

(Min Pins like to "burrow" under covers, so you will need a pad for the bottom of the crate and a small, washable blanket to put on top of the pad.)

o 6. 4' x 4' x 24" high Exercise Pen with lid

(This is invaluable and will serve many purposes. You can put it in your yard and allow the dog to remain in it - in a shaded area - for a few hours, temperatures permitting. Since "X-pens" are easily collapsible you can then bring it indoors and place it in the room where the family congregates. This allows your Min Pin to be with you, but not roaming freely all around the house. The 4' x 4' X-pen can easily be made into a 2' x 4' to place by your bed so your Min Pin can sleep next to you. The lid is essential, as the Min Pin is notorious for jumping out of X-pens. You can also place newspaper in the x-pen and your Min Pin will learn to potty on the paper.)

o 7. Dog Bed

(You can use your dog crate as a bed if you remove the door. Some people simply remove the top to the dog crate and use it as a permanent bed - placed inside the X-pen. Most Min Pins prefer the

round beds with fleece inside - the type commonly used for cats.)

o 8. Dog Collar

(Check with the Breeder as to which type collar has been used - a regular collar or a fine choke chain. Ask the Breeder what size - usually a 10 inch will fit, but that could vary.)

o 9. Leash

(A normal 6 foot leash will suffice - however, the type of leashes which reels out up to 15 feet and retract to about 4 feet are more versatile and the dog gets better exercise. This type of leash requires some practice, so try it out in a secure area before taking off on a walk with it.)

o 10 Toys

(Do not allow your Min Pin to have rubber squeaky toys with the squeaker being easily removable. You can be certain your Min Pin will remove the squeaky mechanism immediately and very possibly swallow it. Look for the toys made of plush, fleece -type fabric, with the squeaky sewn inside the toy. Another good choice is the toy, made of cloth, which looks like a bone. Both the cloth bones and fleece toys are washable. Buy several, as Min Pins like a lot of toys.)

o 11. Local vet

(Call your local vets and inquire if they have any Min Pin "patients". If you find one who has, this could be helpful should your dog become ill. At any rate, establish a rapport with a local vet, let him/her know you will be getting a Min Pin and inquire as to their procedures in the event of any emergency.)

o 12. Schedule

(Set up a schedule for times when your dog will be fed, exercised and played with. Your Min Pin will be happier - and so will you - if a daily routine is established and followed.)

o 13. Min Pin Proof Your Home

(This is no small task as Min Pins are very inquisitive and very fast. Put away all small objects that are out on tables, floors, stools, counter tops, etc. High or low, your Min Pin can and will get to them. Install low, framed screen doors on all the doors of your home which open to any unsecured area. This is to prevent your Min Pin from slipping through your legs when you are taking trash out to the street, bringing in groceries, whatever.)

o 14. Min Pin Proof Your Yard

(Carefully and diligently comb every inch of your yard, fence and gate. Remove small, foreign objects, replace any loose slats or boards, and make certain your gate lock works very well.)

o 15. Paperwork

(Set up your own document or obtain a booklet from AKC, whereby you record everything which pertains to your dog. List the Breeder, the Owner (you) and Sire and Dam, the Date of Birth, Date you actually obtained the dog, the color, the sex and the registration number. All this is a requirement of AKC. Additionally, you should receive a shot record from the Breeder. Plan to keep this with your other paperwork and always keep it up-to-date. Place your "paperwork" in a spot where you can

always have ready access to it. A folder with inserts is excellent for this purpose.)

Whew! Feel tired already? Now that you've completed your Shopping List, you are completely ready for the Main Course - the arrival of your bouncing, lively, fun-loving Miniature Pinscher.

ENJOY

Should you have difficulty obtaining any of the items on this checklist, ask the Breeder from whom you are obtaining your dog or call your local pet shop.