Before You Pay

Use one sheet per dog. Save the listing and agreement. If something does not match, pause the deposit and write down what you still need.

Check	What to record or confirm	Evidence / open question
Puppy	Identity, age, location and who raised it	
Seller or rescue	Legal name, contact and authority to place the dog	
Payee	Name on payment screen and relationship to seller	
Deposit	What it reserves, how it is credited and when it can be lost	
Vet exam	Event that starts the clock, exact due time and required paperwork	

What would make me walk away?

My decision: GO / INVESTIGATE / WALK AWAY

Next action and date

Compare the Fit

Compare two dogs, shelters, rescues or breeders using what you have observed or verified. Write UNKNOWN when information is missing.

Question	Option A	Option B
Dog and source		
Adult size and energy		
Care during a workday		
Other pets or children		
Coat, grooming and allergies		
Health records or unknowns		
Support and return terms		
My biggest open question		

Who handles morning, midday and evening care? Who is the backup?

Which option fits and what still needs checking?

First-Year Budget

Use written local quotes where you can. Count a credited deposit or an included service only once. List an emergency reserve separately from spending.

Expense	First 30 days	Full year	Quote / due date
Purchase or adoption, license, transport			
Housing fees and supplies			
Vet care and prevention			
Food and replacements			
Training and grooming			
Walking, daycare, boarding			
Insurance premiums			
Total expected spending			

Cash available for urgent care today (separate from expected spending)

Clinic and after-hours contact / amount due up front

Backup help I confirmed and how fast it can arrive

If you finance, track the total repayment and balance after year one separately.

Handoff and First Vet Visit

Bring this sheet and the agreement to pickup. Ask the clinic what is urgent if the dog seems ill. Verify any exam or notice requirements separately.

At pickup	Record or confirm	Done / notes
Match the dog	Age, description, sex and chip number if available	
Get the records	Exam, dated vaccinations and treatments, known issues	
Get the receipt	Agreed fees, deposit credit and handoff date	
Get the routine	Current food, observed behavior and contact for questions	
Check transport	Any documents required for this route	

Vet appointment, clinic and after-hours number

Exam deadline / written findings needed / recipient

Questions to take to the first visit