

Puppy Socialization Checklist and Planning Guide

Congratulations on bringing a new puppy into your life! If your goal is to have a happy, well-behaved adult dog that can accompany you wherever you go for years to come, then early socialization is the **MOST** important thing you can do for him.

Socialization is the process of introducing your puppy to the world in a way that will help him be confident and unafraid of people, places and things that he will encounter throughout his life. The most critical socialization period occurs before the age of 12 weeks, and the window is considered to be closing by 5 months.

Socialization is a time-sensitive procedure. It is much easier and more beneficial to create positive experiences with novel people and situations during puppyhood than it is with a mature dog. Pair treats with all exposures to make positive associations. If your puppy seems frightened and won't take treats, you should lessen the intensity of the situation until he is comfortable and taking treats again. This might mean giving him some distance or removing him from the situation temporarily. It is important to repeat exposure to the activities below to provide your puppy with a "bank" of positive practices as she/he matures.

Handling should be a routine activity
done in the comfort of your home. Use
your play and snuggle time to gently repeat
these activities. Take advantage of friends so
your puppy gets use to strangers handling
them as well

hear people In car

Overnight

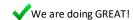
Use the Planning Guide (next page) to Schedule these Activities on a re-occuring basis to balance exposure.

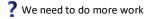
While some of these may be accomplished in the home, others will require planning & trips. But these should be practiced in and out of the home.

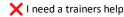
them as well.				
Handling	Unfamiliar People	Surfaces	Visual and Sounds*	Places
Check/Cleaning the ears	Women	Slippery Floors	Cars	High Traffic Walks (People and Cars)
Examine mouth and gums	Men	Tile floors	Trucks	Low Traffic Walks
Gently touching around the eyes	Tall men	Carpet	School Buses	Boarding Kennel
Touching the puppy's muzzle	Men with beards	Wood floors	Motorbikes	Daycare
Lightly tugging on the puppy' tail	Men with deep voices	Conrete	Car Horns	Pet Store
Squeezing the feet	Teenagers	Stairs	Sirens	Public Parks (No dog parks)
Handling and trimming toenails	Toddlers (walking and squealing)	Mud	House Alarms	Dog Friendly Restaurants
Pinching skin	Infants	Grass (Wet and Dry)	Door bells	Dog Friendly Stores (Home Depot)
Cradling the puppy in your arms	Children playing	Uneven and Woobly surfaces	Skateboards	Dog Training Class Locations
Holding the puppy in your lap	Elderly	Objects Baby Strollers		Veterinarian
Hugging your puppy	People walking with canes or walkers	Pots and Pans	Wheelchairs	Animals
Rubbing belly while on their back/relaxed	People of different ethnicities	Brooms	Glass Doors	Playtime with older dogs*
Pulling on the collar/attaching the leash	People wearing hats	Doors ways	Automatic Doors	Puppies (who play well)/Puppy Socials
Grabbing the puppy by other part of body	People wearing sunglasses	Umbrellas	Doors Opening and Closing	Male Adult dogs
Touching the puppy's tail	People wearing reading glasses	Bags blowing in the wind	Fireworks	Female Adult dogs
Bathing and Towel drying	People wearing backpacks	Sidewalk signs	Thunderstorms	Kittens
Brushing your puppy's teeth	People running	Garbage cans	Airplanes	Cats
Crating	People riding a bike	Vacuum cleaners	Dogs barking	Farm Animals/City Animals
In same room/ability to see people	Crowds of People	Shaking of rugs and curtains	Shopping Carts	Pocket Pets
In different room/can't see people but can		·	•	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

* Notes:

Playtime with dogs who play well and will reprimed the puppy with appropriate force for getting in their space CDs can be ordered to help introduce your puppy to some of the sounds listed below.







List the Activity(s) planned or accomplished on that day. After each activity is completed, note how your dog reacted. My puppy was:

1 – over excited, barking, lunging and jumping; 2 – scared to approach, smell or do it; 3 – excited but could chill w/treats and guidance; 4 – Calm w/o treats The goal is to accomplish 4's! Tracking this information can help if you need to hire a trainer so you can develop a formal training plan when necessary.

Week:	Puppy Age:					
M	Т	W	Th	F	Sat	Sun
Visit Vet – 3 Man in hat – 1 Cars – 4 Walked past a dog - 2						
Week:	Puppy Age:					
M	Т	W	Th	F	Sat	Sun
Week:	Puppy Age:					
M	Т	W	Th	F	Sat	Sun
				•		Juli
Week:	Puppy Age:					
М	Т	W	Th	F	Sat	Sun