



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.		Use the Planning Guide (next page) to Schedule these Activities on a re-occurring 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.							
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		Concrete		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 hear people									
In car									
Overnight									

*** 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.

✓ We are doing GREAT!

? We need to do more work

✗ I need a trainers help

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	T	W	Th	F	Sat	Sun
<i>Visit Vet – 3</i> <i>Man in hat – 1</i> <i>Cars – 4</i> <i>Walked past a dog - 2</i>						
Week:	Puppy Age:					
M	T	W	Th	F	Sat	Sun
Week:	Puppy Age:					
M	T	W	Th	F	Sat	Sun
Week:	Puppy Age:					
M	T	W	Th	F	Sat	Sun