

SOCIALIZE YOUR PUPPY TODAY

The below checklist will likely change your perception of what puppy socialization is. It's not just about meeting people and other dogs. It turns out dogs are naturally rather fearful of the unknown. Perhaps we would be as well if our parents didn't explain the world to us. For puppies that we take home, away from their mother, it becomes our responsibility to show them the world and reinforce that it's not scary just because it's new.

Here are some guidelines for you:

- 🐾 Socialization is best implemented from the ages of 8 to 16 weeks of age, but should continue on throughout your dog's life.
- 🐾 Distance and brief encounters are helpful at first. Don't take your puppy to a concert to introduce them to people. Start on the outskirts of a park on a day when it's not overly crowded and gradually build from there.
- 🐾 Pick your puppy up and introduce it to others, asking them to give your puppy a scratch under the chin and then a treat that you supply them with. Picking them up helps to avoid putting your dog in a situation where someone hovers over them and pat them on top of the head – things dogs generally dislike.
- 🐾 Don't be in a rush. Allow your dog to sniff and investigate all he wants. Reinforce this behavior by giving him a treat after he checks something out.
- 🐾 When a cyclist, skateboard, jogger or any other stimulus catches your dog's attention, help them make a positive association by giving them praise and a treat while they are watching the stimulus.
- 🐾 Coddling a frightened puppy can actually send the message that they should be uncertain and reinforces their response. Instead use a happy voice and give them a treat or just retreat and create distance from the stimulus that is causing them anxiety. Once your dog is relaxed at a distance try to slowly approach again. If they still show anxiety, leave on a happy note and try again another day.
- 🐾 Your end goal is to create a confident puppy that is curious and playful instead of weary and uncertain. Use the check box below and add stimuli from your own environment by introducing your dog to as many sights, sounds, textures and smells as you can. Tastes too, but not the gross things they find and will gladly eat now and vomit later. But do try different healthy fruits and vegetables. They're cheaper and often better than store brand treats.

People

- Adults
- Babies
- Toddlers
- Children
- Teenagers
- Seniors
- Both genders
- Different ethnicities

Animals

- Friendly, healthy dogs
- Puppies
- Small pets (hamsters)
- Large birds (geese)
- Cats
- Livestock (goats)

People in Uniform

- Police
- Firefighters
- Postal workers
- Vet clinic staff
- Ambulance attendants
- Crossing guards
- Meter readers
- Telephone worker
- Couriers

People Wearing

- Umbrellas
- Sunglasses
- Hats
- Beards
- Helmets
- Consumes
- Punk hairdos
- Shaved heads
- Raincoats

People with

- Canes
- Crutches
- Legs in cast
- Metal frame walkers
- Wheelchairs
- Guide dogs
- Baby carriages
- Back packs
- Luggage
- Wagons
- Shopping carts
- Limos or odd gaits
- Erratic body moves

Motor Vehicles

- Trucks backing up
- Screeching brakes
- Cars backfiring
- Airplanes & Helicopters
- Street cleaners
- Snow plows
- Garbage trucks
- Motorcycles
- Skidoos & Seadoos

Athletic Folk

- Joggers
- Skate boarders
- Cyclists
- Roller bladders
- Cross country skiers
- Toboggans and sleds
- Snow boarders
- Surfers

- Wind surfers
- Speed walkers
- Spectator at 10k run
- Kayakers/canoeing
- Hang gliders
- People swimming
- Water skiing
- Hackysack
- Martial arts
- Bike couriers

Environmental Hazards & Noise Pollution

- Sirens
- Thunder & lightning
- Snow blowers
- Fireworks
- Snow
- Rain
- Wind
- Airport
- Loud speakers
- Building demolition
- People yelling
- Loud speakers

Outdoor Events

- Parade
- Hot air balloon
- People singing
- Live music band
- Farmers market
- Beach party/bonfires
- Santa Claus
- Fairs & rodeos
- Sporting events
- Mimes & clowns
- People dancing
- Rush hour
- A rally/protest
- Street vendors

Construction Sites & Gardeners

- Jackhammers
- Cranes
- Front-end loaders
- Bulldozers
- Sledgehammers
- Power tools
- Fork lifts
- Carry shovels
- Wheelbarrows
- Lawn mowers
- Ride on mowers
- Leaf blowers
- Weed whippers
- Electric hedge shears
- Garden hose
- Sprinkler systems

Strange Sights & Smells

- Drunk people
- Ice cream truck
- Strong perfume
- Strong cooking smells
- Hammocks
- Swings
- Scooters
- Tricycles
- Stroller

Strange Sights & Smells

- Hula hoop
- Kites, flags & banners
- Model airplanes
- Remote control toys

- Skipping rope

Different Surfaces

- Stairs (up and down)
- Sand
- Wood
- Ceramic tiles
- Carpet
- Slippery surfaces
- Manholes and grates
- Watery or wet
- Grass
- Gravel
- Cement
- Swinging bridge
- Wooden dock
- Tarmack
- Astroturf
- Mud
- Ice

Different Environments

- Crowd of people
- Drive-thru
- Drive-in-movie
- Sporting facilities
- The beach
- Hiking trails
- The office

Home Environment

- Phone Ringing
- Doorbell
- Loud TV/music
- Hair dryer
- Vacuum cleaner
- Kettle
- Dish washer

- Washer/drier
- Dog in bath/shower
- Domestic staff
- Home office
- Sweeping mopping
- Guest
- Repair people delivery people

Different Environments

- Car rides
- Socialization class
- Vet clinic
- Boarding kennel
- Groomers
- The bank
- Video store
- Gas station
- Toll booth
- Shopping mall
- Friend's house
- Public transit
- Outdoor café
- Country versus city
- Elevators/escalators
- Automatic doors
- Pet supply store
- Downtown
- Boat rides
- School grounds
- Petting zoo
- Car wash
- Walking after dark
- A tunnel
- A bridge
- Busy intersection
- Outside day care
- Active railways