

Puppy Socialization Checklist



The first 16 weeks of a puppy's life are the most critical time for socialization. During this time dogs are more accepting of new environments and experiences. An adult dog's behavior is a result of his experiences as a puppy as well as genetics. Puppy-hood is a time to be proactive and prevent problem behaviors from developing.

Keep in mind:

1. Exposure alone is not socialization.
2. Your dog is the one who determines if an interaction or experience was positive. Not you. Not anyone else.
3. NEVER force your dog into an interaction.

Animals

Small Dogs	Older Dogs	Cows
Large Dogs	Young Dogs	Sheep
Fluffy Dogs	Cats and Kittens	Rabbits
Male dogs	Birds	Rats
Female dogs	Horses	Chickens

People

Women	People with hats, helmets
Men	People with canes, walkers, wheelchair
Teenagers	Joggers
Infants	Bicyclists
Toddlers crawling	Homeless people
Toddlers walking	People limping or injured
Men with beards	People with hoods
Men with deep voices	People with umbrellas
Tall men	
Big men	
Elderly	
Delivery men	

Noises

Trucks	Street sweeper	Trains
Vacuum cleaner	Motorcycles	Buses
Fan	Plows	Honking
Slamming doors	Garbage trucks	Sirens
Dropped objects	Rolling things	Fireworks
Sweeping	Door bell	Busy traffic
Mopping	Buzzer	Instruments

Environments

Vet	Stores	Carpet
Parks	Playground	Gravel
Houses	Crowds	Puddles
Elevators	Tile	Mud
Car rides	Wood	Bridges
Beach	Grass	Novel objects
Stairs	Sand	Being alone

Handling

Being touched	Nail Clipping	Wearing harness
Ears	Cleaning ears	Feet examined
Tail	Cleaning eyes	Being bandaged
Paws	Teeth check	Being restrained
Brushed	Teeth brushed	Being tethered
Bathed	Dried off	
Wearing clothes	Wearing collar	