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.

### People
- Women
- Men
- Teenagers
- Infants
- Toddlers crawling
- Toddlers walking
- Men with beards
- Men with deep voices
- Tall men
- Big men
- Elderly
- Delivery men

- People with hats, helmets
- People with canes, walkers, wheelchair
- Joggers
- Bicyclists
- Homeless people
- People limping or injured
- People with hoods
- People with umbrellas

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

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

### Handling
- Being touched
- Ears
- Tail
- Paws
- Brushed
- Bathed
- Wearing clothes
- Nail Clipping
- Cleaning ears
- Cleaning eyes
- Teeth check
- Teeth brushed
- Dried off
- Wearing collar

- Wearing harness
- Feet examined
- Being bandaged
- Being restrained
- Being tethered

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