

Puppy Socialization Checklist

Tips for Socialization:

- The critical socialization period in puppies closes at 12-16 weeks, so every day counts!
- Every experience should be a FUN, positive one for your puppy. If the puppy is fearful, go at their pace and don't force the interaction.
- Use lots of treats, pairing new things with the association that new stuff = awesome noms!



HANDLING	
Checking the ears	
Examining mouth and gums	
Opening the eyelids	
Squeezing the feet	
Handling and trimming nails	
Pinching skin	
Poking the skin with a capped pen	
Touching and squeezing the nose	
Gently restraining the puppy	
Gentle hugs	
Pulling the collar (gotcha)	
Wiping the body with a towel	
Putting on a harness	
Putting on a muzzle	
Touching the tail	
Putting on an e-collar (cone of shame)	
Bathing or getting wet	
Nail clippers/dremel	
Being picked up	
Brushing fur	
WHEELS	
Skateboards/rollerblades	
Strollers	
Wheelchairs	
Bikes	
Cars	
Buses/Trucks	
Motorcycles	

PEOPLE	
Women	
People of different ethnicities	
Men	
People with deep voices or facial hair	
People wearing hats/helmets/hoodies	
People wearing backpacks/bags	
People wearing sunglasses	
People with canes, walkers, walking sticks	
Children standing and playing	
Toddlers	
Infants	
Joggers	
Hugging/kissing	
People in uniforms	
People nearby when they have food/toys	
Shouting/yelling	
Costumes	
DOGS	
Dogs who play well, will correct appropriately	
Dogs on leash the puppy will not meet	
Dogs they will meet but not get to play with	
Different sizes of dogs	
Other puppies	
ANIMALS	
Cats	
Ducks/geese (from a distance!)	
Other animals they may encounter	

SOUNDS	
Thunder	
Fireworks	
Babies and kids	
Alarms	
Doorbell/knock on door	
Vacuum cleaner	
Sirens	
Washer/Dryer/Dishwasher/Microwave	
Car honk	
Hair Dryer	
Popcorn popping	
TV (especially with animal sounds)	
Lawnmower	
OBJECTS	
Pots/pans	
Blankets/rugs being shaken	
Brooms	
Balloons	
Umbrellas	
Plastic bags	
Garbage cans	
Ceiling fans	
Vacuum cleaners	
Mirrors	
Glass doors	
Bouncing balls	
Crates	
Furniture and dog beds	
Sprinklers/hoses	

PLACES	
Trails/Parks	
Inside buildings (ie Home Depot)	
City street	
Parking lot	
Veterinary clinic	
Car rides	
Pool or other water	
Pet Store	
Crowded restaurant, store, fair, etc	

