



Puppy Socialization Checklist

Congratulations on bringing a new puppy into your life! If your goal is have a happy, well-behaved adult dog that you 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 window occurs before the age of 12 weeks, and that 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, and make sure to bank several of these for each experience. 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 if needed, or removing him from the situation temporarily.

Socialization also includes generalizations. You should continue to expose him to new things, places, and contexts to best generalize his confidence with new things. To set your puppy up to succeed, get started right away by building positive associations with as many of the exposures below as possible, as often as possible! Holding your puppy in your arms and taking him to a high-traffic outdoor market or downtown area is a great way to get multiple exposures at once.

Class of Socialization	Specific Socialization					
Body Handling	Check the ears					
	Examine mouth and gums					
	Opening the eyelids					
	Squeezing the feet					
	Handling and trimming toenails					
	Pinching skin					
	Cradling the puppy in your arms					
	Holding him in your arms					
	Hugging your puppy					
	Holding the puppy on its back					
	Grabbing the collar					
	Grabbing the puppy by other part of body					
	Touching the puppy's tail					
Unfamiliar People	Women					
	People of different ethnicities					
	Tall men					
	Men with beards					
	Men with deep voices					
	People wearing hats					
	People wearing sunglasses					
	People wearing backpacks					
	People walking with canes or walkers					
	Teenagers					
	Toddlers (walking and squealing)					
	Infants					
	Elderly					
	Children playing					
	People running					
People riding a bike						

Class of Socialization	Specific Socialization					
Visual and Noises	Sirens					
	Fireworks					
	Car Horns					
	Motorbikes					
	Thunderstorms					
	Crowds of people					
	Wheelchairs					
	Cars					
	Trucks					
	Door bells					
	Skateboards					
	Airplanes					
	Places	Boarding Kennel				
Daycare						
Pet Store						
Parks						
Dog Friendly Restaurants						
Dog Friendly Events						
Dog Training Class Locations						
Veterinarian						
Objects and Flooring	Pots and Pans					
	Brooms					
	Balloons					
	Umbrellas					
	Bags blowing in the wind					
	Sidewalk signs					
	Garbage cans					
	Vacuum cleaners					
	Escalators					
	Elevators					
	Tile floors					
	Wet grass					
	Stairs					
	Wood floors					
	Carpet					
Meeting animals	Puppies					
	Male Adult dogs					
	Female Adult dogs					
	Kittens					
	Cats					
	Farm Animals					
	Pocket Pets					