

Why we should socialize your puppy right away.

Socializing means introducing and exposing puppy to as many things as possible while he is young. This will have a lasting effect on your puppy. It will help to shape the dog he becomes. The sooner you socialize your puppy, the more he'll be able to deal with things in the future. Together, you can explore the world we live in and this is the best gift you can give your puppy.



How to socialize puppy **AFTER** he is fully vaccinated

Take puppy for many walks and don't worry about heeling right now, let him explore his world. The only rule is puppy is not allowed to pull so if he does, simply stop walking until he looks to you for direction, then praise him for checking in and continue walking.

- Walk on many surfaces such as grass, sand, rocks and concrete;
- Take advantage of your surroundings when you are out (rocks, water, stumps or logs);
- Puppy socializing classes are great;
- Visit with safe and friendly dogs, puppies and other cats.

How to socialize puppy **BEFORE** he is fully vaccinated

- Puppies are vulnerable to terrible diseases before they are fully vaccinated. Don't walk them in public places at this time.
- People (visit with as many men with and without beards, workers in uniform, women and children of different ethnic backgrounds, invite them to your home or visit them in theirs). Wait to visit with loud people until puppy is passed 11 weeks of age.
- Sounds (expose to vacuum, hair dryer, dishwasher and other household noises).
- Sit with puppy on blanket in front of your home or at a park. Watch children on bikes, skateboards, rollerblades, cars, strollers and people walking by.
- Flooring (walk on carpet, hardwood, laminate, ceramic).

Remember to update your...
Weekly Training Chart!

Tips & Bits

- When socializing your puppy, remember the fear imprint period between 8 to 11 weeks of age. Make sure that things are not perceived by him as dangerous or threatening.
- Refer to your Introduction to Canine Body Language Booklet to help you identify when your puppy is uncomfortable. Try to help him overcome his insecurities. For example if someone is reaching to say hi and puppy leans down and back, ask the person to kneel down instead, turn his body sideways, hold his hand out below puppy's head level and wait for puppy to approach. Also, if puppy is fearful of loud noises, such as the vacuum, have someone use the vacuum a distance from you and your puppy. Get him to do some simple sit exercises and only work your way towards the noise at your puppy's pace. By understanding canine language, you will see his insecurities and be able to help him along the way.
- Not taking the time to properly socialize your puppy can snowball into many problems. Puppy may become fearful or nervous of everything then become difficult to walk. This results in less walks and too much energy being stored up. Boredom and lots of energy lead to destructiveness. No canine friends results in insecurities so now dog becomes fearful and/or aggressive to other dogs. Because undersocialized dogs often don't have human friends outside of their family, they feel the need to vocalize when anyone passes or dares come to the door, at which time they may lunge at windows and tear away at window frames. Many become so stressed, nervous and frustrated that they actually soil the house and eventually people simply can't take it any more. They are frustrated, angry, disappointed and ready to give up on the very same puppy they adored so dearly months before.
- Remember that walking your dog daily is good for his mind and body.
- Socializing your puppy is fun and rewarding for everyone!



Windy Willows
PET SERVICES
by Rachelle Buehler

“SOCIALIZING”

Daily ✓



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