

Early Puppy Socialization



The “sensitive period” of socialization is between 3 and 14 weeks according to the American Veterinary Medical Association.

“Statistically speaking, your puppy has a much greater risk of developing permanent behavior issues if not properly socialized, than of contracting a disease while properly socializing.”

Proper Socialization

Proper socializing is exposing your puppy to as many people, sounds, smells and healthy dogs/animals as possible, in a positive way. Make sure your puppy is having a positive experience; help make a connection between these experiences and good, safe feelings. Proper socialization at a young age is **critical to raising a well balanced dog**.

What to do:

Take your puppy somewhere everyday if possible. Meet and get affection from many types of people. Take rides in cars, on busses, boats, trains, etc. Meet healthy, fully-vaccinated dogs, cats, farm animals, etc. Go to sporting events, restaurants, car shows, stores, banks, city streets, beaches, pools, farms, parking lots, etc. Try to do everything & go everywhere you want your puppy to enjoy as an adult dog.

What to Avoid:

Until your puppy is fully vaccinated, stay out of “dog walk” and “pet elimination” areas, dog parks, highly populated - overwhelming places, dogs you don’t personally know, loud noises such as firework shows. If your puppy gets scared of something, stop until s/he feels safe. Later, try again, slowly, with lots of play, treats, and praise. **KEEP IT FUN for you and your puppy!**

