

What is a Socialization?

Socialization means learning to be part of our world. When we talk about socializing pet puppies, most people think it means meeting other dogs and people. While it is essential to introduce other dogs and humans, socialization means so much more. It's helping them learn to be comfortable around many different things. As a pet within a human world, that includes many kinds of people, environments, buildings, sights, noises, smells, animals, and other dogs. I like to call this Bravery Skills.

Why Is Socialization Important?

Young puppies, need to get used to the everyday things they encounter. When they are older, they become much more suspicious of things they haven't encountered yet. When puppies become comfortable with the everyday sights, sounds, people and animals life is much more enjoyable for everyone. We don't want them spending their life jumping in fright at every blowing leaf or squirrel chirp. Later on natural suspicion is developed to make sure they do react with caution to new things that could hurt them.

A well socialized dog will also help them to be more relaxed in new situations. Dogs that have poor social skills are much more likely to react in fear or with aggression to. These dogs tend to have high levels of stress and suffer from separation anxiety too.

How Do I Begin Socialization?

Socialization is different for everyone. If you don't go boating, then you may not care to introduce your puppy to boats. But, the more your dog experiences the better chance of being comfortable in most situations.

Sometimes it's difficult to socialize puppies during their first few weeks because they need their vaccinations before venturing out very far in the world. But there is quite a bit you can do while waiting for vaccinations to be completed. This list is meant to inspire your imagination and think of things in your everyday life your puppy may encounter. Keep in mind, the older your puppy gets, the more difficult it will be to get them over their suspicion. Be sure to reward your dog with happy praise and a treat for investigating something or someone they aren't sure about. Don't give up, be patient, and don't be afraid to ask a professional trainer for help. Be patient, your dog is doing the best they can with what they know.



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Weird Things

Big plastic objects
Plastic bags
Balloons
Umbrellas
Mirrors
Big balls
Thrown things
Shopping carts
Strollers
Fast movement
Kids toys
Windsocks
Brooms
Vacuum cleaner
The wind
The wind blowing
bushes/trees
Flags
Balls and frisbees
Tents
Flashlights

Movement and Noises

Lawn mower
Bikes
Vacuum cleaner
Skate boards
Scooters
Bus
Train
Tractors
Line Trimmer
lawn mowers
Musical instruments
Cheering
School Bell

Travelling

Escalators
Elevators
The car
Planes

Different Surfaces

Bean bags
Tiles
Floorboards
Bubble wrap
Different walking surfaces
Wobbly bridges
Heights
Agility Equipment
Gravel

Water Things

Sprinklers
Hoses
Being wet by the hose
Water
The beach
The bath
Swimming pools
People swimming
Water feature
Rain

Cars
Trucks
Motorbikes
Chainsaws
Fork lift
Helicopters
Airplanes
Sirens
Hair dryer
Suitcase
Go Karts
Saucepans
Loud Noises

Wheelbarrow
Remote control cars
Ceiling fans
'Life sized' pictures of people
Glass sliding doors
Boats
Fireworks
Storms (e.g. thunder and lightning)
Parties

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Being Restrained

Leashes
Harnesses
Halti/head harness
Muzzle
Opening mouth
Cutting nails
Grooming Clippers(as appropriate to the breed)
Clippers
Being tethered
Having ears cleaned
Having eyes cleared
Having every part of the body handled
Being picked up
Teeth cleaning
Being carried on a stretcher
Being bandaged
Elizabethan collar

Other Animals

Puppies
Big dog
Little dog
Shaggy dog
Smooth dog
Goats
Cows
Sheep
Alpacas
Chickens
Horses
Cats
Bull breed dogs
Rabbits
Birds

Places

The Vet (Go in to say Hello!)
Pet Supply Stores
Getting on a scale
Airport
Skate park
Bus depot
Train station
Shopping malls
Football game
Parking Lots
School
Coffee shop
Building site
Wreckers yard
The gym
Tennis game
Office
Freeway
Place with crowds
Main roads

Different People

Men
Women
Boys
Girls
Shuffling people
Slouched people
People with glasses
People on crutches
People with walking sticks/canes
People walkers
Wheelchairs

People walking strangely
Babies
Parties
People on roller blades
Fat people
Thin people
Tall people
Short people
People with beards
People with sunglasses
Bald people

People exercising (running, jogging, star jumps, etc.)
Children and babies
Dancing people
Busking people

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