

## 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.

## 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 of 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. 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.



Wagging Tails Training  
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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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