

Puppy Socialization Checklist

How to socialize your puppy

Remember that exposure is not socializing! Pair all new experiences with food, play and praise to ensure that you are creating a POSITIVE association, not a neutral or negative one. Socialization does not need to be an interaction. Seeing the dog, person or object and having that paired with yummy food is enough to help create a positive association.



ANIMALS

- Large dogs
- Small dogs
- Brachycephalic breeds
- Long haired dogs
- Short haired dogs
- Curly haired dogs
- All different colours of fur
- Cats
- Livestock (horses, cows etc)

PEOPLE

- All skin tones
- Short people
- Tall people
- Kids
- Toddlers
- Babies
- People holding bags
- People holding umbrellas
- People carrying kids
- People wearing different types of hats
- People wearing hoodies

BODY HANDLING

- Ears being held and rubbed
- Paws being touched
- Nail trims
- Tail lifts
- Being toweled down
- Looking in the mouth
- Being brushed
- Baths

SOUNDS

- Traffic
- Large trucks
- Thunder
- Babies crying
- Kids playing
- Vacuums
- Fireworks
- Construction sounds

WHISTLER

- Helmet & Goggles
- Carrying Skis & Snowboards
- Avalanche bombing

STOP

If your puppy is showing any signs of fear, including not taking the treat, take a few steps away to create more distance and see if that helps them relax. If your puppy is still worried, take a break and try again another day.

OBJECTS

- Garbage cans
- Umbrellas
- Balloons
- Walking canes
- Strollers
- Shopping carts

THINGS WITH WHEELS

- Skateboards
- Scooters
- Strollers
- Bikes
- E Bikes
- Wheelchairs
- Luggage
- Shopping Carts

TEXTURES

- Carpet
- Hardwood or linoeum flooring
- Concrete
- Grass
- Steel material (vet scale, manhole covers)
- Wobbly surfaces
- Snow
- Mud



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