

PUPPY SOCIALIZATION

CHECKLIST

How To Use

The goal of socialization is to help puppies become well-adjusted, confident, and sociable pets, reducing the likelihood of fear, anxiety, and aggression as they grow. Proper socialization equips puppies with the skills to cope with new experiences in a positive way, but done wrong can make things worse. It's important that we follow the 4 rules below to assure success.

01 Socialization Window

If possible, exposure should begin within a puppy's "Socialization Window", at 8-12 weeks of age.

02 Use Plenty of Reinforcement

Ensure a positive experience by rewarding your puppy with their favorite treats, toys, or praise.

03 Don't Rush the Process

Progress slowly, starting at a safe distance, and increase exposure if your dog is calm and comfortable.

04 Avoid Negative Experiences

If your dog shows signs of fear or stress, don't hesitate to take a step back and try again later.



PUPPY SOCIALIZATION

CHECKLIST

ANIMALS

- Other Puppies
- Adult dogs
- Large breeds
- Small breeds
- Cats
- Pet Birds
- Pet Rodents
- Pet Reptiles
- Horses/livestock
- Other: _____

SURFACES

- Concrete
- Artificial grass/turf
- Wet grass
- Slick floors
- Wet floors
- Metal surfaces
- Carpet
- Dirt/mud
- Sand
- Snow/ice
- Gravel
- Uneven terrain
- Other: _____

VEHICLES

- Skateboards
- Bicycles
- Strollers
- Shopping Carts
- Cars/trucks
- Buses
- Motorcycles
- Airplanes
- Drones
- Go-karts
- Kayak/canoe
- Other: _____



PUPPY SOCIALIZATION

CHECKLIST

PEOPLE (WEARING)

- Women
- Men
- Infants (crawl/walk)
- Toddlers
- Teenagers
- Elderly people
- Different ethnicities
- Tall people
- Running people
- Men with deep voices
- Men with beards
- Bald people
- People in wheelchairs
- People with canes
- People in hats
- People in helmets
- People in sunglasses
- People with backpacks
- People in costumes
- Other: _____

BODY HANDLING

- Handling by collar
- Putting on collar
- Putting on harness
- Putting on muzzle
- Being brushed
- Hugging/squeezing
- Outside of ears
- Inside of ears
- Outside of mouth
- Inside of mouth
- Eyes (with caution)
- Paws
- Nail areas
- Pinching skin
- Touching tail
- Holding in arms
- Holding on lap
- Other: _____



PUPPY SOCIALIZATION

CHECKLIST

ENVIRONMENTS

- Vet office
- Grooming facilities
- Boarding facilities
- Inside of vehicle
- Busy sidewalk
- Parks (dogs/people)
- Parking lots
- Elevators
- Gas stations
- Shopping areas
- Inside businesses
- Other people's homes
- Dog-friendly events
- Restaurant patios
- Lakes and ponds
- Streams and rivers
- Cities
- The Beach
- Hiking trails
- Other: _____

OBJECTS (SOUNDS)

- Cooking pots and pans
- Brooms/mops
- Blankets
- Balloons
- Umbrellas
- Garbage can/bags
- Large balls
- Chairs
- Clicker (for training)
- Canes/crutches
- Wheelchair
- Luggage
- Vacuum
- Hair dryer
- Nail dremel
- Television
- Kettle
- Vacuum cleaner
- Dishwasher
- Washing machine



PUPPY SOCIALIZATION

CHECKLIST

OBJECTS (SOUNDS) CONTINUED

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dryer | <input type="checkbox"/> Smoke alarm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Microwave | <input type="checkbox"/> Security alarm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sleep alarm | <input type="checkbox"/> Thunder/lightning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cell phone ringing | <input type="checkbox"/> Rain/wind |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn mower | <input type="checkbox"/> Ambulance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Snow blower | <input type="checkbox"/> Police siren |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flags | <input type="checkbox"/> Doorbell/knocking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fireworks | <input type="checkbox"/> Car horns |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cheering/clapping | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Discover More Pet Resources

For more great advice, visit [DogNerdly](#). Whether you're a new puppy parent or a seasoned dog lover, our articles offer a wealth of knowledge to enhance your puppy journey. Don't miss out on the latest tips, health advice, and heartwarming stories. Join our community of dog nerds today by subscribing to our newsletter!



DogNerdly