



Puppy Socialisation Checklist



The clock is ticking for them to experience as many sights, smells and sounds as possible before they are around 14 weeks of age.

The following list can be used as a starting point for your puppy's socialisation, take a look and tailor this to suit you and your puppy's needs, environment and potential known experiences/situations they may find themselves in.

Every effort should be made to help your puppy have positive experiences and help your puppy be confident and curious rather than become anxious and frightened. They will look to you when they are worried. Even if you are worried try and remain calm and happy so not to unintentionally reinforce the worry they are experiencing.

Avoiding/minimise eye contact, remaining calm and keeping food treats or their favourite toy (whichever they work for) at the ready to distract them when necessary.

We 100% advise all owners to brush up on their understanding of doggy body language signs so you can identify when your puppy is feeling anxious. Ignoring subtle dog language signs can be problematic.

This checklist is by no means exhaustive and is here as a guide. Many of these are important life skills for your puppy. It is advisable for each household to make their own check list of new experiences for their puppy as each pup's environment and expected lifestyle ahead, will vary in some way.

Plan for a couple of new experiences each day and repeat them as often as you can. A happy puppy learns better so focus on little and often rather than overwhelming them with many new experiences all at once. Practicing 'home alone' time and 'car travel' are both very important - on a daily basis in the initial weeks.

- Veterinary Practice
- Kennels
- Groomers
- Other people's houses
- Pub
- Parties
- School
- Recreation Ground
- Shows and Fetes
- Roadside
- Public transport
- Park
- Rural Areas
- Towns/cities
- Markets
- Lifts
- Stairs
- Water (river/sea)
- Training classes
- Travel in the car**



Places to go:

- Hoover
- Washing machine
- Tumble dryer
- Hairdryer
- Vehicles
- Children's toys
- Pushchairs
- Bicycles
- Wheelchairs
- Hot Air Balloons
- Other dog breeds, size and colour
- Cats
- Other domestic pets
- Livestock
- Balloons
- Different types of people (age/sex/ethnicity etc)
- People of different appearance (hair/beard/hats/glasses etc)
- Delivery people/postman/milkman/lollipop person
- BEING LEFT ALONE**



**Things to
encounter:**



**Activities to
accept:**

- Wearing a collar / harness
- Walking on a lead
- Grooming
- Bathing
- Medical examination e.g. examine of mouth, touching feet
- Brushing teeth
- Clipping claws
- Leaving of a toy/treat (will happily give up a stolen item)
- Greeting a stranger
- Greeting new dogs
- Basic Commands e.g. come, sit, stay, down, heal and re-call off
lead to owner
- Puppy crate training**

- Men
- Women
- Children
- Babies
- Elderly People
- Disabilities e.g. using walking sticks and walking frames etc.
- Confident / Loud People
- Shy / Quiet People
- Delivery People (encourage interaction indoors & outdoors)
- People with headgear
- People with glasses
- People with breads
- People in wheelchairs
- People on bikes
- People on skateboards
- People pushing prams
- Joggers / Runners
- People significantly different in appearance from family members
- Veterinary Practice Staff & Others in distinctive clothing



**People and
Animals to
Meet:**



**People
Wearing
Different
Clothing**

- Hats
- Sunglasses
- Helmets
- Costumes
- PPE
- Canes / Crutches
- Wheelchairs
- Umbrellas
- Suitcases
- Pushchairs
- Shopping trolleys
- Guide dogs



**People In
Uniform**

- Police
- Firefighters
- Ambulance Workers
- Postal Workers
- Lollipop Men / Women



**Walking On
Different
Surfaces**

- Carpet
- Wood
- Tiles
- Grass
- Pavement
- Slippery
- Sand
- Stairs