

SOCIALISATION



What your puppy experiences during the first three to four months of their life will have an enormous impact on their future behaviour and well-being.

You will never get this time back, so make the most of it!

What is socialisation?

Puppy socialisation is a confidence building process. The goal is for your dog to form lots of positive associations with a large variety of people, other animals, objects, situations, environments, sights, sounds, smells and generally anything that they may encounter in their future life.

Why is it important?

If your puppy grows into a happy and confident adult, your chances of having a well-behaved dog are much higher. Socialisation greatly helps to prevent behaviour problems by making sure your dog feels safe in our world. Fear is the enemy as it is by far the most common reason behind behaviour problems including aggression.

How do I do it?

Expose your puppy gradually to new things without forcing or scaring them. Let them explore the world at their own pace. Make each encounter a positive experience by immediately following it up with tasty food and/or play. First experiences create the most memorable and lasting types of memories, so make them particularly enjoyable.

Socialisation Checklist

People

- different genders and ages
- different sizes
- different skin colour
- with facial hair
- with hats and helmets
- with umbrellas, walking sticks
- carrying boxes, bags, suitcases
- standing on ladders, chairs
- in baggy coats, uniforms
- children of all ages

Noise

- sports events, markets
- playgrounds
- traffic, incl. trains, planes
- building sites
- household items, e.g. vacuum
- power tools, machines
- TV, music, alarms, sirens
- fireworks, thunder, heavy rain
- children shouting, screaming
- babies crying
- dogs barking
- loud voices, laughing

Movement

- cyclists, skateboarders
- joggers, dancers, yoga, tai-chi
- wheelchairs, prams, trolleys
- children running
- babies crawling
- party balloons
- mops, brooms, rakes

- plastic bags blowing in wind
- people walking behind fences
- animals moving behind fences

Other animals

- puppies who play well
- adult dogs who play well
- cats, birds
- any other pets you may have
- any pets your dog may meet
- farm animals
- wildlife

Surfaces

- slippery surfaces
- metal, grates
- wobbly surfaces
- stairs, ramps
- sand, pebbles, gravel
- carpet
- wet surfaces
- mud puddles
- snow, ice

Expose your puppy to the items listed (and more) many times over and always in a manner that does not scare the puppy. Give your puppy a tasty treat after each experience, especially after meeting people and other animals - in particular for the first time - and after anything that could scare or worry your pup, such as loud noises, fast moving people or objects or being touched or hugged.

CONTACT

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