

Socialization and Introduction for Puppies is Critical

If you want a well-socialized, adjusted puppy it is important to begin introductions to new things early on in life. It is critical that all these new introductions and all experiences are safe and positive for the puppy. Socialization also involves other things, not just other puppies and other people.

Each encounter should include treats and lots of praise. Slow down and add distance if your puppy is scared! Do not force a puppy! By the time a puppy is 14 weeks old, it should have: *(If your puppy is over 14 weeks start right away with his socialization guide.)* Any difficult problems, please consult a trainer with Dog Training by P.J. for your puppy evaluation and to develop a socialization program customized for your puppy.

1. Experienced 10-12 different surfaces: snow, puddles, wood, carpet, tile, cement, linoleum, grass, wet grass, dirt, sand, mud, grates, uneven surfaces, on a groomer or veterinarian table, on a chair or vehicle seat, etc.
2. Eaten from 10-12 different shaped containers: wobbly bowl, metal, cardboard box, paper, coffee cup, china, pie plate, plastic, frying pan, Kong, Treat ball, BusterCube, spoon fed, paper bag, etc. and in 10-12 different locations: back yard, front yard, crate, kitchen, basement, laundry room, bathroom, friend's house, car, school yard, bathtub, up high (on work bench), under umbrella, etc.
3. Played with 10-12 different puppies (or safe adult dogs) as much as possible and regularly. Just because the puppy plays well as a youngster does not guarantee the puppy as the reach adolescence and are removed from playing that they will remain socialized. Constant socialization into and through adulthood is necessary.
4. Played with 10-12 different objects: Kongs®, tug ropes, fuzzy toys, big and small balls, hard toys, funny sounding toys, squeaky toys, wooden items, paper or cardboard items, milk jugs, metal items, car keys, etc.
5. Experienced 10-12 different locations: front yard and back yard (daily), other people's homes or yards, park, river, basement, elevator, car, moving

car, garage, laundry room, kennel, training facility, veterinarian hospital (just to say hi and visit, lots of cookies, no vaccinations), grooming salon (just to say hi), etc.

6. Met and played with 10-12 new people (outside of family): include children, adults of all kinds, sizes, elderly adults, people in wheelchairs, walkers, people with canes, crutches, hats, sunglasses, wearing a beard, etc.
7. Exposed to 10-12 different noises (*ALWAYS keep positive and watch puppy's comfort level - we don't want the puppy scared*): garage door opening, doorbell, children playing, babies screaming, big trucks, motorcycles, skateboards, washing machine, shopping carts rolling, power boat, clapping, loud singing, pan dropping, horses neighing, vacuums, lawnmowers, birthday party, etc...
8. Exposed to 10-12 fast moving objects, however, do not allow the puppy to chase or bark at the moving objects - keep on a leash and bring plenty of treats to keep the puppy's focus on you (scary things mean "treat bar is open.") The moving objects can include, skateboards, roller-skates, bicycles, motorcycles, cars, people running, cats running, scooters, vacuums, children running, children playing soccer, squirrels, cats, horses running, cows running.
9. Experienced 10-12 different challenges: climb on, in, off and around a box, go through a cardboard tunnel, climb up and down steps, climb over obstacles, play hide and seek, go in and out a doorway with a step up or down, exposed to an electric sliding door, umbrella, balloons, walk on a wobbly table (plank of wood with a small rock underneath), jump over a broom, climb over a log, into and out off bathtub, etc.
10. Handled by owner (and family or friends) 10-12 times a week: hold under arm (like a football), hold to chest, hold on floor near owner, hold in-between owner's legs, hold head, look in ears, mouth, in-between toes, hold and take temperature (ask veterinarian), hold like a baby, trim toe nails, hold in lap, etc.
11. Leave the puppy alone *safely*, away from family & other animals (5-45 minutes) 10-12 times a week.
12. Experienced a leash, collar 10-12 different times in 10-12 different locations.
13. Experienced a head halter (Gentle Leader or Halti) so you can take this puppy on a walk shortly. Don't allow this puppy to learn how to pull to "get to walk."