

PUPPY SOCIALISATION CHECKLIST

Socialisation is the learning process that puppies must undergo to learn key life skills which ensure that they are happy and confident in the environment, and are able to communicate effectively within their social group.

Use this checklist to introduce your puppy to all the things on the list, as often and as many times as possible. Check them off as you go to build positive experiences and confidence for your puppy.



PEOPLE

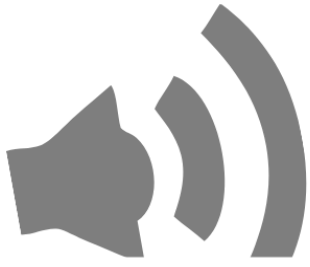
- Postman
- Veterinary staff
- Groomer
- Mix of all age ranges & heights
- People in wheelchairs and/ or using mobility aids
- Hats/ glasses/ face or head coverings/ facial hair
- High vis clothing/ cyclists/ runners
- Different cultural attire & different ethnicities



ENVIRONMENT

- Different houses/ buildings/ pet shops
- School/ playground areas - this includes noises too
- Cars/ buses/ trains/ trams
- Lifts/ stairs
- Crowds/ busy places
- Different types of flooring/ ground surfaces/ terrains
- Variation of heights/ gradients

The key window for socialising a puppy is between 8-12 weeks and should begin as soon as you pick them up. Try introducing your puppy to something new every day to avoid overwhelming them.



NOISES

- Traffic noises and car horns
- Noises of planes or helicopters
- Household appliance noises - washing machine, Hoover etc
- Alarms - fire alarms, phone alarms etc
- Different types of music

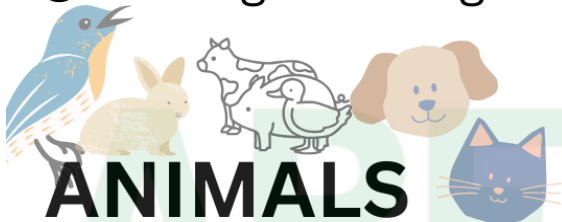


- Recreate storm noises via Dogs Trust "scary sounds"
- Recreate fireworks via Dogs Trust "scary sounds"
- Clippers and hairdryers
- Doorbell/ knocking at door
- Loud noises and banging
- Children and babies playing/ shouting/ laughing/ crying etc
- Lawnmowers, hedge trimmers or noisy gardening equipment



HANDLING

- Getting legs & paws touched - Nail clips
- Looking in mouth, getting used to teeth brushing
- Checking ears, eyes, teeth
- Wiping face and body
- Getting used to gentle restraint
- Pick them up
- Touch all over coat
- Gently pull on collar



ANIMALS

- Dogs of all ages, breeds and temperaments
- Cats
- Livestock (farm animals)
- Horses
- Small furries
- Birds
- Squirrels