

PUPPY SOCIALIZATION CHECKLIST

INTRODUCTION & HOW TO USE



pupford

Your goal with each item/person/sound etc. on the checklist is to create a positive experience surrounding it within the first 8-12 weeks of your dog's life. Of course, try to avoid neutral or negative experiences.

One of the best ways to ensure positive moments is with reinforcers, especially treats and food. Specifically for the people section, try to get each type of person to pet, interact with, and give your dog a treat or two!

If your pup reacts with fear, over-arousal, or avoidance, take a step back and slowly reintroduce said person/object/item/etc.

Never rush your dog into situations that could overwhelm them. It's not a race!

PUPPY SOCIALIZATION CHECKLIST

ANIMALS

- Other puppies
- Adult dogs
- Large breeds (Great Dane, Mastiff)
- Very small breeds
- As many breeds as possible
- Cats
- Horses
- Other livestock like cattle
- Pet birds
- Hamsters, pet rats, etc.

VEHICLES

- Skateboards/longboards
- Bicycles
- Large garbage cans
- Baby strollers
- Shopping carts
- Carts honking
- Buses
- Motorcycles
- Metal surfaces (vet scale, etc.)

SURFACES

- Concrete
- Artificial grass/turf
- Slick floors (linoleum, hardwood)
- Stairs (carpet and concrete)
- Wet grass
- Mud and dirt
- Icy areas and snow
- Metal surfaces (vet scale, etc.)
- Uneven terrain and rocky areas

SOUNDS

- Animal sounds (goat, pig, etc.)
- Crane/construction machinery
- Fireworks
- People cheering
- Smoke alarm/security alarm
- Thunder/gunshots
- Ambulance/police siren
- Doorbell/knocking on door
- Vacuum cleaner
- Dishwasher, washing machine/dryer

PUPPY SOCIALIZATION CHECKLIST

PEOPLE

- Women
- People of different ethnicities
- Tall men
- Men with deep voices
- Men with beards/facial hair
- Elderly people
- People in wheelchairs
- People who use canes/crutches
- People wearing hoods/hats
- People wearing helmets
- People wearing sunglasses
- People wearing multiple colors
- People wearing backpacks
- Infants
- Crawling infants
- Toddlers
- Multiple toddlers being loud
- People running
- Homeless people
- Teenagers

HANDLING/TOUCHING

- Outside of ears
- Inside ears (not into ear canal)
- Outside of mouth area
- Inside of mouth area (be gentle)
- Back teeth
- Eye area (be careful)
- Paws
- Nail areas specifically
- Pinching skin
- Grabbing tail
- Nose
- Holding in arms
- Holding on lap
- Wiping body with towel
- Wiping paws with towel
- Wiping face with towel
- Handling by collar
- Putting on collar/harness
- Being brushed/combed
- Hug/squeeze puppy softly

PUPPY SOCIALIZATION CHECKLIST

ENVIRONMENTS

- Busy street
- Busy sidewalk
- Park with other dogs
- Park with lots of people
- Park with lots of children
- Parking lots
- Shopping areas (pet-friendly)
- Inside business buildings
- Inside other people's homes
- Dog-friendly events
- Street markets and fairs
- Restaurant patios
- Sporting events (as allowed)
- Skate park/biking area
- Lakes and ponds
- Streams and rivers
- Unfamiliar neighborhoods
- Vet office
- Grooming/boarding stores
- Running races/similar events

OBJECTS

- Cooking pots and pans
- Brooms/mops
- Blankets/rugs being shaken
- Balloons
- Umbrellas
- Garbage bag being opened
- Bags blowing in wind
- Soccer/basketball
- Computers
- TV/Video game noises
- Garbage cans with lids
- Metal type surfaces
- Clicker (for training)