

# Puppy Socialisation Checklist

We cannot over emphasize the importance of well planned socialisation for your puppy. The clock is ticking for the early part of their training, you need to help them experience as many sights, smells and sounds as possible, before they are around 16 weeks of age. Every effort should be made to control how your puppy experiences these to ensure your puppy doesn't become frightened. They will look to you when they are worried and if you make a fuss of them at this point it will only reinforce the worry they are feeling. In the future this can manifest itself into serious behavioural problems, e.g. being frightened of loud bangs or becoming very stressed when you leave them.

*Note: A puppy's vaccination course, is effective 14 days after their second injection - some of the components are effective after 7 days but one (leptospirosis) takes a full 14 days. We recommend that you take your puppy out as normal but keep on a lead and only mix with fully vaccinated dogs after the first 7 days. This helps to ensure they are not mixing with unvaccinated dogs or coming into contact with areas inhabited by rats, all of whom could be carrying leptospirosis. After the full 14 days has passed you can treat your puppy normally and let them explore!*

It's important to get this bit right! Please call us, if you would like more advice on socialising your puppy.

## TEN THINGS TO DO WITH YOUR PUPPY EVERY DAY!

1. Take your puppy to a new place
2. Take your puppy to meet new people, (see below check list)
3. Take your puppy to meet new, friendly, vaccinated dogs
4. Put puppy in car
5. Leave your puppy alone indoors, in a safe area, for 30 minutes
6. Spend 3-5 minute sessions of reward-based training with your puppy
7. Put your puppy's collar & lead on & take them off 3 times a day
8. Handle your puppy all over, groom your puppy & clean his / her teeth
9. Give your puppy at least 3 different activity toys or games to play with on his/her own
10. Play a retrieve game, a recall & a football game with your puppy for 5 minutes in each case

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The following list can be used as a starting point for your puppy's socialisation.

You can adapt this to suit your puppy's needs, experiences and situations ...

<p><b>Places to go:</b>            Veterinary Practice            Kennels            Groomers            Other peoples' houses            Pub            Parties            School            Recreation Ground            Shows and Fetes            Roadside            Public transport            Park            Rural Areas            Towns/cities            Markets            Lifts &amp; Stairs            Water (river/sea)            Training classes  <b>TRAVEL IN THE CAR</b>  <b>Things to encounter:</b>            Hoover, Washing machine &amp; Tumble dryer            Hair dryer            Vehicles            Children's toys &amp; Balloons            Hot Air Balloons            Cats, Other domestic pets, Livestock  <b>DOGS OF DIFFERENT SHAPES &amp; SIZES</b></p>	<p><b>People and Animals to Meet:</b>            Men, Women, Children, Babies            Elderly People            Disabled &amp; infirm e.g. using walking sticks, walking frames, wheelchairs            Confident / Loud People            Shy / Quiet People            Delivery People (encourage interaction indoors &amp; outdoors)            People with headgear, glasses, beards            Children in dressing up costumes, e.g. halloween            People on bikes, skateboards            People pushing prams            Joggers / Runners            People significantly different in appearance from family members            Veterinary Practice Staff &amp; Others in distinctive clothing            Different types of people: age/sex/ethnicity            Delivery people, e.g. policeman, postman  <b>BEING LEFT ALONE</b>  <b>Activities to accept:</b>            Wearing a collar / harness            Walking on a lead            Grooming, Bathing, Medical examination            Brushing teeth            Clipping claws            Leaving of a toy/treat            Greeting a stranger, Greeting new dogs            Basic Commands e.g. come, sit, stay, down, heal and re-call off lead to owner  <b>PUPPY CRATE TRAINING</b> (if relevant)</p>
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