

# Puppy Socialisation

Creating purposeful, positive experiences to prepare your puppy for life in the human world.



The first 20 weeks is a critical socialisation period in a dog's life. Your dog's initial experience of new things will strongly influence their behaviour for any future interactions, so it is essential that these experiences are positive, fun and rewarding. Remember exposure to situations IS NOT socialisation. Socialisation is creating positive experiences for your puppy, through fun and rewarding interactions with new or different things. *Puppy training classes such as Puppy School will provide support and guidance for you and your puppy through this critical stage in your dogs life.*

## Noises

- Vacuum cleaner, lawn mower, strimmer
- Microwave, dishwasher, washing machine
- Fan, heater, extractor
- Doors (squeak, motorised, slam, chime)
- Transport – cars, busses, trains, aeroplanes, lorries, motorcycles, electric vehicles, traffic
- Hair dryer / dog dryer
- Door bells, knockers, knocking
- Children playing / shouting
- Vehicle sirens, horns, alarms
- Fireworks, gun shots, backfire bangs
- Weather – rain, wind, hail, thunder
- Musical instruments
- Parties, singing, laughing, clapping, cheering, shouting
- Flapping & clanking of flags & signs
- Church bells, house alarms

*Sample noises can be obtained from Puppy School on CD or via the App.*

## People

- Men & Women
- Children – babies, toddlers, juniors, teenagers
- All Ages – young adults, middle-aged adults, elderly
- Shapes & sizes – disabled (wheel chairs, walking aids, etc.) large, tall, short
- Sounds – loud confident people, laughing, crying, shouting, singing, shy, timid people
- People wearing uniform – delivery drivers, postman, bin men, police, firemen, etc.
- Joggers
- People wearing different hats and helmets
- People with facial hair & beards
- People wearing glasses
- People wearing motorcycle helmets

## Objects Not moving

- Dog toys
- Children's toys
- Umbrellas
- Balloons, inflatables, etc.
- Fishing rods, poles, sticks
- Balls – football, rugby, tennis, etc.
- Garage doors
- Plastic bags
- Flags & banners
- Shopping trolleys
- Brooms, mops & brushes
- Cars, motorcycles, busses, lorries, vans
- Garden tools – lawn mower, hedge trimmer, power washer, rakes, shredder, etc.

## Animals Types, Breeds, Ages

- Dogs – adult & puppies
- Dogs – large, small
- Cats & kittens
- Small pets
- Ducks, geese, swans
- Livestock – cows, sheep, pigs, chickens
- Horses

## Environments

- Friends houses
- Shopping centre
- Parks
- Outside school
- Outside children's play area
- Country walks
- Garage / car boot sale
- Pubs, bars, restaurants, café
- Village hall
- Party
- Vets, groomers, pet shop
- Kennels, day care, other care facility
- Your workplace
- Car
- Stairs
- Lifts / elevators
- Beach (sand & shingle), sea, swimming pools, lakes, rivers
- Sports fields, rugby, football, cricket, athletics, etc.
- Different surfaces – tile, wood, carpet, gravel, grass, mud, puddles, water, steel mesh, etc.
- Different heights – walking on raised surfaces, narrow bridges, etc.
- Tunnels, underpasses and walkways

## Toys Shapes, Materials, Textures

- Squeaky
- Rubber
- Plastic
- Fabric
- Crinkly
- Large, small
- Tug, fetch, find, smell, chew

## Experiences

- Handling – being held, touched, examined
- Grooming – being dried (towel), brushed, blow dried
- Bathed – washed, rinsed, hosed down
- Healthcare – nail trimming, checking and cleaning of: teeth, eyes, ears, paws, legs, tail
- Fitting – collars, harnesses, coats, boots
- Activities – walking and running on and off lead
- Bicycles
- Skateboards
- Motorcycles
- Pushchairs / prams
- Traffic
- Scooters
- Children's ride on / toys
- Trains
- Boats
- Taxis, busses, coaches
- Trolleys

## Learning To Be Alone

Puppies fear abandonment from their parent, so you need to gradually teach your puppy to be independent, as their mother would in nature. After your puppy is tired (after play etc.) and toileted you should put your puppy to bed (a crate or den works well for this) and leave them in that room alone. Ignore any initial whining or crying. Once settled you can open the door to allow the puppy to come in to you in their own time. You should gradually increase the time they are left alone to suite your lifestyle. Never go to a puppy making a fuss, as this rewards them for making a fuss and will do it more next time. Instead wait until they are quiet and then go to them and reward the good behaviour. Never punish a dog after an absence no matter what has been done, as this may cause additional separation anxieties.

