



SOCIALIZATION SCAVENGER HUNT



Socialization is the most important part of a puppy's life. Ideally, puppies will be exposed to each of these things...

1. IN A POSITIVE WAY
2. BEFORE 16 WEEKS OF AGE

We recommend keeping track of what your puppy (or a client's puppy) has had good experiences with. This way, you reduce the likelihood that the puppy will develop fear of something new in the future, and the puppy will learn to generalize so you're covered if you miss something!

People

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Women | <input type="checkbox"/> Children |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tall men | <input type="checkbox"/> Babies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Men with deep voices | <input type="checkbox"/> People in uniform |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Men with beards | <input type="checkbox"/> People in sunglasses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> People of many ethnicities | <input type="checkbox"/> People in hats |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elderly people | <input type="checkbox"/> People in wheelchairs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mail carrier | <input type="checkbox"/> People with walkers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> People running past | <input type="checkbox"/> Teenagers |

Have each "type" of person give the puppy a piece of kibble or a treat! Get as many people to (positively) handle the puppy as possible.



Handling

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Examine eyes | <input type="checkbox"/> Touch each toe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Examine ears | <input type="checkbox"/> Touch each paw |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Examine nose | <input type="checkbox"/> Wipe paws & body with towel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Examine teeth & gums | <input type="checkbox"/> Gently pinch between toes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Open mouth | <input type="checkbox"/> Nail clipping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lift tail | <input type="checkbox"/> Baths |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hold tail | <input type="checkbox"/> Cradle dog with belly up |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gently squeeze abdomen | <input type="checkbox"/> Put on harness & head halter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gently restrain & hug | <input type="checkbox"/> Grab collar |

Other Animals

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Variety of dogs | <input type="checkbox"/> Rodents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cats | <input type="checkbox"/> Reptiles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horses | <input type="checkbox"/> Any other animals you have or may encounter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other livestock | |

Places

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vet's office | <input type="checkbox"/> Pet-friendly street fair |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City street (downtown) | <input type="checkbox"/> Beach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City street (residential) | <input type="checkbox"/> Forest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parking lot | <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban neighborhood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buildings (inside) | <input type="checkbox"/> Pet-friendly retail store |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elevators | |

Surfaces

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shiny floors | <input type="checkbox"/> Grass (dry & wet) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Slippery floors | <input type="checkbox"/> Metal grates |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stairs | <input type="checkbox"/> Wobbly surfaces |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete | <input type="checkbox"/> Sand |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gravel | <input type="checkbox"/> Ice and/or snow |

Sounds

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thunder | <input type="checkbox"/> Construction equipment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fireworks | <input type="checkbox"/> Phone ringing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sirens | <input type="checkbox"/> Doorbells & buzzers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Car horns | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacuum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fire alarms | <input type="checkbox"/> Hair dryer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen timers | <input type="checkbox"/> Babies crying |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Knocking on doors | |

Objects

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bikes | <input type="checkbox"/> Crates |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Skateboards | <input type="checkbox"/> Broom, mop, shovel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cars (inside & out) | <input type="checkbox"/> Balloons |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycles | <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic & fabric bags |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buses & trains | <input type="checkbox"/> Garbage bags |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strollers | <input type="checkbox"/> Pots & pans |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shopping carts | <input type="checkbox"/> Umbrellas (being opened too) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garbage cans | <input type="checkbox"/> Fabric being shaken out |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic signs | <input type="checkbox"/> Baby gates |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jingling keys | <input type="checkbox"/> Toys that make noise and/or move |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday decorations | <input type="checkbox"/> Blinds being opened or closed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luggage | <input type="checkbox"/> Moving furniture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drills & tools | |

Consider the time of year during your puppy's first 16 weeks. Try to incorporate socialization items that the puppy may encounter later in the year. If it's May, introduce the puppy to Halloween decorations. In the summer, pull out coats, hats, boots, etc. to socialize your puppy to these things before their socialization window closes!



If you find that your puppy is shy, fearful, or apprehensive around a certain person, object, place, sound, etc., never force the dog to confront it. A well planned and executed course of desensitization and counter-conditioning can help get the puppy used to what they perceive to be scary and dangerous. Always reward the dog for being brave and exploring things at their own pace.

