

Socialization Checklist

Remember to try to check off each item at least 7 times before your puppy is 4 months old. 100 times is better (especially for other dogs and people). Photocopy as needed for your own use.

Surfaces:

- Grass and dirt
- Cement
- Parking lots
- Stairs - carpeted
- Stairs - hard wood
- Stairs - with an open back (so you can see through)
- Stairs - spiral
- Carpet
- Tile
- Linoleum
- Rugs
- Shiny indoor commercial flooring like at pet stores
- Manhole covers
- Metal flooring
- Surfaces that move a bit or wobble beneath their feet, like clanging sidewalk plates or swinging bridges

Environmental:

- Rain
- Snow
- Heat and Cold
- Dog-friendly events
- Car rides (shorter at first, then longer)
- Kong toys (stuffed)
- Crates
- Your vet's office and staff
- Groomer's office and staff
- Boarding kennel or pet sitter and staff
- Fireworks (from a far distance, appropriately contained)
- Alarms
- Traffic
- Doorbells
- Jackhammers and loud machinery
- Buses
- Motorcycles
- Planes
- Trains
- Sirens, etc
- Vacuum cleaner
- Broom
- Lawn mower

- Snow blower
- Forest
- Meadow
- Beach
- Mountain/bluff
- Rivers/Creeks/Streams
- Ponds
- Large bodies of water
- Farm

Visual:

- Umbrellas (opened & closed)
- Rain coats
- Jackets
- Winter coats
- Costume or unusual clothes
- Caps, baseball hats, and wide-brimmed hats
- Helmets
- Hoodies
- Backpacks
- Large purses
- Canes
- Walking sticks
- Walkers
- Pots, pans
- Blankets
- Fans
- Balloons
- Items blowing in wind
- Sunglasses and regular glasses
- Direct eye contact
- Direct eye contact with forward movement
- Direct eye contact with smile and forward movement
- Bikes
- Trikes
- Wheelchairs
- Skateboards
- Rollerblades
- Scooters
- Other wheeled non-motorized vehicles

People:

- Infants squealing, crawling, in stroller or carrier
- Children sitting or standing calmly
- Children walking, running, skipping, jumping and playing
- Children saying hi to the puppy

- Children being loud and excited
- Teenagers
- Men, especially larger, taller men
- Men with beards
- Men with deep voices
- Women
- People of various ethnic backgrounds
- People with handicaps
- Mail carrier and delivery people
- People in uniforms

Other Animals:

- Other small dogs, both male and female
- Other medium dogs, male and female
- Other large dogs, male and female
- Farm animals
- Cats who are confident
- Cats who are skittish
- Small mammals
- Birds

Grooming:

- Leash handling
- Collar handling
- Handling of harness, and other equipment you will use regularly
- Baths
- Nail trims
- Teeth brushing
- Other grooming rituals

Handling

- Handling the paws, including sweeping your finger around the paw pads and in between the toes
- Pinch the toe nails to mimic nail trims
- Rub your finger on the teeth and gums
- Look inside the ears and sniff the ears
- Move your dog's tail, gently pull on it, and rub the base of the tail
- Hugs
- Gentle restraint
- Head pats
- Looking at the eyes and nose

Other:

- _____
- _____
- _____

