

Puppy Socialization

A puppy's first fear period lasts from birth until ~4 months of age and then occurs again between 10-15 months. During these times, it is critical to positively and safely expose them to as many different people, places, sounds, textures and other animals as possible. Pairing a delicious treat when s/he is near these items creates a fun and rewarding interaction. If you notice signs of fear or hesitation, don't force it. Instead, allow them to approach at their own pace and be able to move away to feel safe.

Check off the stars to keep track of your dog's progress and exposure to each experience. Enjoy these learning experiences together!

People

- ☆☆☆ Babies crawling, crying
- ☆☆☆ Toddlers walking
- ☆☆☆ Children playing
- ☆☆☆ Teenagers
- ☆☆☆ Middle-aged adults
- ☆☆☆ Senior citizens
- ☆☆☆ People with canes & walkers
- ☆☆☆ Loud boisterous people
- ☆☆☆ People wearing hats
- ☆☆☆ People wearing sunglasses
- ☆☆☆ Men with beards
- ☆☆☆ People carrying large bags
- ☆☆☆ People running
- ☆☆☆ Different ethnicities

Objects

- ☆☆☆ Bikes
- ☆☆☆ Skateboards
- ☆☆☆ Strollers
- ☆☆☆ Wheeling suitcases
- ☆☆☆ Outdoor garbage cans
- ☆☆☆ Wheelchairs
- ☆☆☆ Brooms/vacuums
- ☆☆☆ Umbrellas
- ☆☆☆ Fire hydrants
- ☆☆☆ Hair dryers
- ☆☆☆ Buses/trucks
- ☆☆☆ Boxes
- ☆☆☆ Plastic bags

Sounds

- ☆☆☆ Sirens
- ☆☆☆ Alarms
- ☆☆☆ Car horns
- ☆☆☆ Doorbell/knocking
- ☆☆☆ Thunder
- ☆☆☆ Fireworks
- ☆☆☆ Laughter
- ☆☆☆ Crying
- ☆☆☆ Yelling

Handling

- ☆☆☆ Holding, cradling
- ☆☆☆ Checking, cleaning ears
- ☆☆☆ Examining mouth
- ☆☆☆ Touching all paws
- ☆☆☆ Clipping nails
- ☆☆☆ Touching tail
- ☆☆☆ Touching muzzle
- ☆☆☆ Hugging
- ☆☆☆ Holding collar
- ☆☆☆ Putting on harness
- ☆☆☆ Wiping with towel

Environment

- ☆☆☆ Crate
- ☆☆☆ Car rides
- ☆☆☆ Pet stores
- ☆☆☆ Parking lots
- ☆☆☆ City streets
- ☆☆☆ Inside building