



## Socializing your Puppy

Socialization is a process of exposing your puppy to a variety of people, places, noises and situations through a positive experience in order to help him be confident and less reactive as he or she grows up. Children go through a similar socialization period but since dog's age so much faster than humans, their socialization period is short – from puppyhood to six months and ideally before four months of age.

The more experiences you expose your puppy to...during this critical time, the less reactive they will be in adulthood. But it is crucial that these experience be positive so the below worksheet will provide you with an opportunity to list how comfortable your pup is with the situation. Your puppy may be relaxed and comfortable, a little on edge or not good at all. Those experiences that are not at all good or even a little on edge, should be repeated in tiny intervals until the puppy gets more and more comfortable.

Dogs are not good at generalizing...what this means is that they might know something 100% in your home but completely forget it somewhere else, like in the veterinary office, so it's crucial that you work with your puppy in many different settings, not just at home.


We use treats in dog training because they are valued so highly by dogs, they can also be delivered quickly which is important. So when you're working with your dogs in these different settings, be sure to be very generous with the treats. If at any time your dog will not accept a treat, either the treat isn't good enough or your dog is too stressed to think about food. (Try to remember the last time you were scared or tremendously nervous...maybe the last time you slid on some ice? Were you hungry? Could you even think about eating?)



Note...any time you bring your puppy anywhere, take a look at the situation. Your dog is likely a few inches from the ground and seeing the world in a completely different perspective than you. If it's crowded or scary from that low height, pick him or her up or move them to a safe area.




Also note, puppies need vaccinations to protect them from deadly diseases like Parvo or Distemper (both of which are prevalent in dogs to the south of Durango). Be sure to have your puppy vaccinated as early as possible and avoid bringing him or her to places where unvaccinated dogs may frequent, like dog parks, etc)

To proceed....go to a new place, stay calm and upbeat, be sure there isn't any tension in the leash. Expose your puppy gradually and reward often and show your happiness!






Sounds			
Sirens			
Fireworks			
Gunshots			
Car horns			
Traffic			
Thunderstorms			
Train whistle			
Trucks			
Planes			
Loud cars			
Motorcycles			
Bikes			
Skateboards			
Radios			
Door bells			
Kitchen appliances			
Truck backing up			
Knocking			
Vacuum			




Interacting with people			
Holding puppy			
Touching paws			
Touching each toe			
Touching nose			
Touching ears			
Touching tail			
Hugging			
Touching collar			
Checking teeth			
Clipping nails			
Brushing teeth			
Checking between pads			
Cleaning ears			
Touching backend			
Brushing, grooming			

Different types of people			
Men w/beards			
Men w/hats			
Men w/sunglasses			
Big men			
Small men			
Men w/Helmets			
Heavily tattoo'd men			
Men in uniforms			
Men of diff ethnicities			
Women w/hats			
Women w/sunglasses			
Big women			
Small women			
Women w/Helmets			
Heavily tattoo'd women			
Women in uniforms			
Women of diff ethnicities			
Babies			
Toddlers			
Young children			
pre-teens			
Teenagers			
Anyone reaching to pup			
Anyone w/crutches			
Anyone in a wheelchair			
Anyone w/a cane			
Elderly males			
Elderly females			


Remember the key here is good experiences!

If your dog is upset or concerned, repeat the activity in smaller doses with more food to make him or her more comfortable!

Walk on			
Stairs			
Escalators			
Tile			
Marble			
Asphalt			
Concrete			
Grass			
Sand			
Rocks			
Carpet			
Wood			

Meeting Animals			
Puppies			
Male dogs			
Female dogs			
Kittens			
Cats			
Horses			
Cows			
Sheep			
Chickens			
Llama's			

Unfamiliar settings			
Shopping Mall			
Veterinary office			
Humane Society			
Boarding Kennel			
Groomer			
Daycare			
Trails			
Lake			
Pet Stores			
Home Depot			
Main St			
Busy office			
Riding in the car			
Schoolyard			
Picnic, BBQ, Party			
Riding in someone else's car			
River			
Park			
Other people's house			

Moving objects			
Skateboarders			
Bikers			
Cars			
Joggers			
Dogs			
Cats			
Squirrels			
Deer & wildlife			
Horses			
Baby strollers			
Kids			
Shopping carts			

Remember to always....

**Communicate** – with your dog

**Advocate** – for your dog

**Challenge** - your dog