



RSPCA School for Dogs Information Sheet

Socialisation Checklist

Over the course of your puppy's life it may be exposed to many of these things. We want to ensure that all encounters are positive and not scary! The more things you can introduce your puppy to in the important early developmental months the more stable and resilient your dog will be for life.

Try not to introduce more than a few of these things at a time, and if you feel that the puppy is overwhelmed or even unsure, do not continue introducing new things that day.

When introducing anything new, set your puppy up for success:

- Start with a calm dog
- Have plenty of treats on hand
- Always ensure that the puppy has the ability to move towards the new thing and also to move away.
- If the puppy does not want to investigate that is OK, try again another day!
- Reward the puppy for approaching or even looking at something new.

If your puppy reacts strongly to anything ensure you simply remove the puppy from the situation calmly. Call us straight away so we can help you change this reaction.

You should see an increase in confidence each time the puppy is introduced to the new 'thing'- if you don't, please call us straight away!





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New Experience	1 st Exposure		2 nd Exposure		3 rd Exposure	
	Confident	Uncertain	Confident	Uncertain	Confident	Uncertain
Places						
Beach						
Shops						
Vet surgery/RSPCA						
Friends places						
Parks						
Enclosed spaces/crate						
Schools						
Streets						
Sounds						
Thunderstorms						
Garbage trucks						
Kids playing						
Babies crying						
Sirens						
Fireworks						
Doorbells						
Kettle whistling						
Skateboards						
Dogs barking						
Planes						
Pots clanging/kitchen activity						
Surfaces						
Slippery						
Carpet						
Unstable						
Puddles						
Slopes						
Rough						
Grass (wet & dry)						
Roads						
Other						



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Puddles						
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Roads						
Other						

Further resources and reading:

Michaels, Linda (MA), 2014, SOCIALIZATION & VACCINATIONS GO TOGETHER

<http://www.dogpsychologistoncall.com/puppy-socialization-and-vaccinations-belong-together/>



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Early puppy socialization classes: Weighing the risks vs. benefits (2009),

<http://veterinarymedicine.dvm360.com/early-puppy-socialization-classes-weighing-risks-vs-benefits>

Animal Sense, Socialisation - what it's NOT and how important is it...

<https://animalsense.com.au/2018/07/31/socialisation-what-its-not-and-how-important-is-it/>

That Dog Geek (2016), The MOST Important Thing To Teach A New Puppy - SOCIALISATION,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qPGd7EIMCJ8&t=235s>

Adams, Julia (Dr), 2016, <https://www.australiandoglover.com/2016/12/why-is-puppy-socialisation-so-essential.html>

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