Puppy socialization checklist

People, handling, sounds, surfaces, places and animals, week by week. Write the date and your puppy's reaction in the box for its age.

Puppy's name _____ Date of birth _____ Came home on _____

Vet says it can meet other dogs from _____ Puppy class: where and when _____

In the box for your puppy's age, write the date and a mark for how it went:

+ calm, curious, takes treats
? freezes, hesitates, won't come closer
– backs away, hides, struggles or growls

Experience	8–9 weeks	10–11 weeks	12–13 weeks	14–16 weeks	After 16 weeks
People					
Women and men of all ages and sizes					
Men with beards or deep voices					
Hats, helmets, hoods or sunglasses					
Children playing (with an adult watching)					
Babies and toddlers (with an adult watching)					
People with walking sticks or wheelchairs					
People running or cycling past					
Visitors at the door					
Handling and grooming					
Looking in the ears and eyes					
Opening the mouth, touching the teeth					
Holding the paws, touching the nails					
Brushing					
Nail trimming					
Drying with a towel					
Putting on a collar or harness					
Holding the collar, lifting into your lap					
Sounds					
Vacuum cleaner and hairdryer					
Washing machine, blender, kitchen noise					
Doorbell and knocking					
Dogs barking					
Babies crying, children shouting					
Traffic, sirens and motorbikes					
Fireworks and thunder (recordings, quiet at first)					
TV, radio and music					

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In Pettify, your puppy's care plan adds a short socialization task every day until 4 months, next to vet visits and reminders.

Owner's personal checklist, not veterinary advice. When your puppy can meet other dogs is your vet's call.

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Puppy socialization checklist

Puppy's name _____

Experience	8–9 weeks	10–11 weeks	12–13 weeks	14–16 weeks	After 16 weeks
Surfaces					
Grass, wet grass					
Sidewalk and concrete					
Slippery floors: tiles, wood					
Stairs					
Metal: drain covers, a scale					
Sand, mud and soil					
Something that wobbles a little					
Places and things that move					
Car rides					
A quiet street					
A busy street with traffic					
Bus or train					
Park, field or woods					
A shop or building that allows dogs					
Bikes, scooters and strollers going by					
Other animals					
A calm, friendly adult dog you know					
Puppies that play gently					
Cats					
Birds					
Horses, cows or sheep					
Rabbits and squirrels					
Your other pets at home					

How to go about it

- Short, fun sessions with a few new things at a time. Start easy: from a distance, quietly, for a moment, and reward calm interest with treats, praise or play.
- If your puppy seems worried, calmly take it away. After a "?" or a "–", go back a step next time: more distance, less noise, a shorter go.
- Repeat each experience on different days: one good time is a start.
- Ask your vet when your puppy can meet other dogs and go where unknown dogs have been, and write the date on page 1.
- Leave time to be alone with a toy or a nap in a crate or pen, so being alone is normal too.
- Keep going after 16 weeks, through the first year. If your puppy is often scared, ask your vet for advice.

Notes

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