

PUPPY SOCIALIZATION CHECKLIST

People

- Men and women
- Babies and children of all ages
- Elderly people
- People of different ethnicities and races
- Tall and short people
- Big and small people
- Men with beards
- People wearing sunglasses
- People wearing hats and hoods
- People wearing face masks and coverings
- People with backpacks and umbrellas
- People in uniforms
- People with canes, crutches, and wheelchairs
- People carrying bags and boxes

Movement/things that move

- Running
- Throwing balls
- Cars
- Trucks and buses
- Bikes
- Skateboards and scooters
- Motorcycles
- Emergency vehicles

Animals

- Dogs of all shapes and sizes (fluffy, short-nosed, tiny, huge, black, cropped ears, no tails, etc.)
- Cats
- Birds, squirrels, rabbits and other wildlife
- Any other animals your dog might come into contact with

New places and situations

- Car rides
- Other people's houses
- Vet office
- Pet stores
- Shopping areas
- Restaurant patios
- Parks
- Lakes/beaches

- Hiking trails
- Busy streets

Noises

- Household appliances (vacuums, blenders, blow dryers, etc.)
- Doorbells/knocking
- Kids yelling
- Babies crying
- Fireworks
- Wind/rain/thunder
- Garbage trucks
- Trucks backing up
- Alarms
- Loud music
- Sirens
- Traffic

Different surfaces

- Grass
- Water/wet surfaces
- Pavement/asphalt
- Sand
- Mulch
- Gravel
- Carpet
- Hard floors
- Shiny/slick floors or surfaces
- Stairs

Handling and grooming

- Petting different parts of body
- Handling different parts of body
- Picking up
- Holding by collar/harness
- Lifting ears/tail/paws
- Handling for vet examinations
- Hugging/restraint
- Bathing/toweling
- Brushing
- Scissors/clippers if professional grooming will be needed

Signs of Stress and Fear

Dogs communicate when they're feeling stressed or scared through their body language. Look out for these signals when socializing your puppy. If she's showing that she's scared, don't push her to interact with what's scaring her. Discontinue and try again later with a version that is a little less scary (further away, smaller, slower).

- **Eyes:** avoiding eye contact, prolonged staring, dilated pupils, big/wide eyes
- **Ears:** pulled out to the side or back flat against the head
- **Mouth:** yawning, panting, licking lips, closed mouth, lips pulled tight or puckered, showing teeth, mouthing
- **Tail:** low or tucked under, very high, may still be wagging
- **Body:** tense/stiff body, sweaty paws, lifting paw, self-grooming, shaking off, trembling, cowering, avoiding, freezing
- **Vocalizations:** whining, barking, howling, growling, snarling