Puppy House-Training and Socialization

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Socialization

The first 8-16 weeks in a dog's life are the most crucial time for socialization. During this time dogs are more accepting of new environments and experiences. It is important to understand that socialization is not defined by exposure alone, but rather, the positive interaction with the new person, place, or thing. An adult dog's behavior is a result of his experiences as a puppy as well as genetics. Puppy-hood is a time to be proactive and prevent problem behaviors from developing.

The following checklist provided is to help keep puppy owners on track of what their puppies have been exposed to:

	Specific Socialization	
Handling ***Pro-Tip**: make sure to keep sessions positive and short. Always praise if your puppy is doing good. This will create the positive association.	Checking the ears	
	Examining mouth and gums	
	Opening eyelids	
	Squeezing the feet	
	Trimming toenails	
	Poking skin with pen	
	Pinching Skin	
	Touching and squeezing nose	
	Poking nose with capped pen	
	Cradling puppy in arms	
	Holding puppy on back while giving it a belly rub	
	Hugging your puppy	
	Grabbing puppy by other parts of the body	
	Wiping body with a towel	
	Holding puppy on his side	

Unfamiliar People ***Pro-Tip:** During exposure puppy should be on leash, and can observe all of these from a distance. Remember to praise for good behavior.	**Specific Socialization**	
	People of many ethnicities	
	Women	
	Tall Men	
	Men with deep voices	
	Men with beards	
	Elderly	
	People wearing hats/helmets	
	People wearing hoodies	
	People wearing boots	
	People wearing backpacks	
	People wearing sunglasses	
	People with canes, walking sticks, or walkers	
	Teens	
	Children standing as well as playing	
	Toddlers (walking and squealing)	
	Infants (crawling)	
	People running by	

	Specific Socialization	
	Dogs walking as puppy observes from a distance.	
	Dogs playing while puppy observes from a distance	
	Well socialized dogs who play fair	

Other Animal Species	**Specific Socialization**	
	Cats	
	Horses and livestock	
	Any other types of pets you have	

New Surfaces	**Specific Socialization**	
	Concrete	
	Slippery floor such as hardwood	
	Metal surfaces such as manhole covers	
	Wobbly surfaces such as wobble board	
	Stairs	
	Wet grass	
	Mud	
	Ice, frost, or snow	

Scary Sounds ***Pro-Tip:** All of these sounds can be exposed with an audio video or CD.	**Specific Socialization**	
	Metal bowl dropping	
	Thunder	
	Vacuum cleaner	
	Sirens	
	Fireworks	
	Babies and kids	
	Alarms	
	Dogs barking	
	Doorbell ringing	
	Traffic	
	Jack hammers	

Objects with Wheels	**Specific Socialization**	
	Skateboards	
	Rollerblades	
	Garbage cans outside	
	Shopping Carts	
	Baby strollers	
	Wheel Chairs	
	Bikes	
	Cars	
	Motorcycles	
	Buses	

Man-Made Objects	**Specific Socialization**	
	Pots and pans	
	Blankets or rugs being shaken	
	Brooms	
	Balloons	
	Umbrella	
	Bags blowing in the wind	
	Sidewalk signs	