

## Socialization List

Socialization in world of dogs is very different from that in the human world. In our world, socialization is more focused on human-to-human relationships. For a dog, socialization does not only focus on humans and other animals, but also, environmental situations, noise, sounds, smells, objects, and surfaces just to name a few. The website <http://www.walabs.com/puppies%20Socialization.doc> states that there are two types of socialization. One being Active Socialization- “Things we purposely introduce to our dogs like obedience training, visiting new people and rides in the car and Passive “What your puppy comes across in her/his own time like exploring the plants in the back yard.” According to Dee Woodcock in her book, *Preventing Puppy Problems*, “socialization is a few short weeks of intense concentration exposure to many people, places, and situations.” It is crucial to your puppy’s development that he be introduced to as many situations as possible during 4-12 weeks of age as the first fear period will present itself during this stage (8-12 weeks) and then the second fear period later on after six months.

There are several benefits to socializing your puppy. By making sure that all your puppy’s experiences are carefully thought out, that you are watching your actions and reactions and that the situations are being set up carefully and done in the most positive way will help your puppy to be better balanced, more confident, and able to cope with unexpected events. Socialization will also help prevent behavior problems later on in the puppy’s life such as aggressive behavior, which could lead to an actual bite. Another benefit to this mass of socialization is helps with brain enhance brain functions by mentally challenging the puppy, which in turn, results in a smarter dog. It is of utmost importance during this time that you watch for any signs of fear or stress that any given situation might be causing the puppy. Overwhelming him with situations that are not controlled may end up causing a fear reaction that will affect him for the rest of his life. An owner can help a puppy by ignoring any fear reactions and rewarding the puppy with praise and food rewards for any appropriate reactions.

Following is a guide that would help a new owner be able to see the scope in which their new puppy should be socialized. The following list is practically endless and there is no limit to the variety of situations, but the most common situations that could arise are listed in the chart.

| <b>People</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Purpose</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adults of both sexes</li> <li>○ Men with beards</li> <li>○ Different color, size, shapes of people</li> <li>○ Elderly</li> <li>○ Babies and toddlers (birth to 4 years)</li> <li>○ Children of all ages (5-teenagers)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Creates strong human-dog bonds</li> <li>○ Teaches the puppy to become confident around people</li> <li>○ Helps with resource guarding if the puppy knows that people are not a threat to his “valuables”</li> <li>○ Teaches that eye contact is ok</li> <li>○ By ensuring that we set up new experiences with people in the most positive way, the puppy will learn to be more trusting of people and associate</li> </ul> |

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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p>them with pleasant experiences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Allows puppies to become accustomed to quick moving and noisy children and babies crying</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Activities People Do</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Purpose</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Athletic people (runners or joggers)</li> <li>○ Cyclists</li> <li>○ Running</li> <li>○ Rollerblading</li> <li>○ Skateboarding</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Humans engage in a huge variety of activities, exposing them to quick moving items such as bicycles will help them to adjust to the sound and movement that people make during these activities which lowers the fear factor.</li> <li>○ Allows you to engage in these activities while out and about with your puppy without him being afraid</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Objects People Wear or Use</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Purpose</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Various Clothing (Jackets, Shoes, Boots, hooded jackets)</li> <li>○ Variety Of Hats And Scarves And Winter Wear (gloves)</li> <li>○ Sunglasses</li> <li>○ Umbrellas</li> <li>○ Wheel Chairs/Crutches/Canes</li> <li>○ Baby Strollers</li> <li>○ Bicycles, Skateboards, Roller Blades</li> </ul>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Many different people will equal a selection of everything from clothing, hats, uniforms, bikes, wheel chairs etc.</li> <li>○ Noises and movements from such equipment as wheelchairs, crutches or strollers can cause fear because they are different looking</li> <li>○ Seasons change so a puppy may become fearful of someone being bundled up in the cold</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Handling</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Purpose</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Muzzle area</li> <li>○ ears</li> <li>○ collar and collar area</li> <li>○ feet</li> <li>○ Legs</li> <li>○ tail and under tail</li> <li>○ teeth/mouth</li> <li>○ bathing</li> <li>○ eyes/eye contact</li> <li>○ gentle restraining</li> <li>○ anal glands</li> <li>○ Overall body</li> <li>○ Leashes</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To make puppy feel more comfortable being examined by a veterinarian or allow certain procedures</li> <li>○ Allows for easier nail trimming</li> <li>○ Allows for acceptance of a collar</li> <li>○ Can be enjoyable and relaxing for puppy</li> <li>○ Easier for a groomer to groom the puppy</li> <li>○ Teaches puppy that it's ok to be hugged or restrained</li> <li>○ Prevents head or hand shyness if you desensitize around the collar area</li> <li>○ It's a good idea to accustom your puppy to going to the bathroom while on leash so that you can go anywhere any time and your puppy feels comfortable going while being</li> </ul> |

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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | in close proximity of you. I have experienced several dogs at the kennels or absolutely will not go while on a leash, however, don't recall well enough to be off leash.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Household Items, Structures and Noises</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Purpose</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Vacuum cleaners</li> <li>○ Pots and pans</li> <li>○ Television</li> <li>○ Brooms/mops</li> <li>○ Dishwasher</li> <li>○ Lawn equipment (mowers/weed whippers, sprinklers)</li> <li>○ Other animals in the home</li> <li>○ Home appliances-dishwashers, washing machines,</li> <li>○ Bells—microwave, door bells</li> <li>○ Power tools</li> <li>○ Stairs</li> <li>○ Opening/closing garage doors</li> <li>○ Slamming doors</li> <li>○ Family members talking/boisterous children running in the home</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Becomes accustomed to every day noises that are reality in their life</li> <li>○ Helps with establishing daily routines</li> <li>○ Helps to cut down barking of the “unknown” sounds</li> <li>○ Reduces fear reactions to sudden noises such as pots and pans clanging or vacuum cleaners being pushed back and forth</li> <li>○ Helps to navigate around different areas such as stairs</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Locations</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Purpose</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Crowds</li> <li>○ Parks</li> <li>○ Playgrounds</li> <li>○ Balloons/Birthday parties</li> <li>○ Veterinarians</li> <li>○ Stores</li> <li>○ Groomers</li> <li>○ Your own front/back yard</li> <li>○ Boarding Kennels</li> <li>○ Puppy Kindergarten Classes</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Usually lots of people and children present, other animals, traffic, in these areas</li> <li>○ There is a wide world of sights and sounds to mentally stimulate the puppy</li> <li>○ Rich environments where once the puppy is fully vaccinated can continue socialization with dogs and people including children</li> <li>○ Taking to the vet or groomers a few times only for treats and attention then leaving creates a positive experience</li> <li>○ Allowing down time in some locations just to watch and take in experiences can set up safe positive situations where you can reward the puppy for non fearful reactions</li> <li>○ Helps to adjust in any location that</li> </ul> |

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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | you put him in                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Travel/Transportation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Car</li> <li>○ Bus</li> <li>○ Trains</li> <li>○ Elevators</li> <li>○ Escalators</li> <li>○ Traffic</li> <li>○ Busy roads</li> <li>○ Lights</li> <li>○ Noises</li> <li>○ Bicycles</li> <li>○ Motor bikes</li> <li>○ Trains</li> </ul>                                                                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Having the puppy able to enjoy car rides or bus rides will allow him to go to fun places other than the vets</li> <li>○ Outings can be mentally stimulating</li> <li>○ Teaches him to adapt to different modes of transportation</li> <li>○ Teaches him appropriate behavior and commands for while you are driving or sitting on a bus if good behavior is rewarded from the start</li> <li>○ Might not live in an area that has certain modes of transportation but if you ever move or visit somewhere you would want the puppy to be comfortable with the surroundings and noises, so if you live rural, then visiting the city will give the puppy the experience of traffic noises</li> <li>○ Traffic that goes whizzing by can be very scary especially bikes as they are quiet and then whip by with wind and speed</li> </ul> |
| <b>Surfaces</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Purpose</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Linoleum</li> <li>○ Mud</li> <li>○ Hardwood,</li> <li>○ Carpet,</li> <li>○ Cement,</li> </ul> <b>Surfaces Continued</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gravel,</li> <li>○ Grass/Wet Grass</li> <li>○ Water</li> <li>○ Tables/Exam Tables</li> <li>○ Sandy Beaches</li> <li>○ Bedding And Blankets</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Teaches the dog can walk on any and all surfaces</li> <li>○ Gives you more freedom to take your dog to fun places such as hiking, swimming etc</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Other Dogs</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>Purpose</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Large Dogs</li> <li>○ Small Dogs</li> <li>○ Younger Dogs</li> <li>○ Older Dogs</li> <li>○ Different Breeds</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Practice greeting rituals, helps reduce or eliminate aggression, allows opportunities for play</li> <li>○ Our actions are important so as not instill fear in the puppy for example picking him up when a bigger dog comes over or tighten up on the leash</li> <li>○ Making first encounters with</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p>healthy dogs that are not going to rush the puppy and scare him will help him become confident around other dogs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dog-Dog play teaches bite inhibition which is important incase the puppy snaps or attempts a bite due to fear “Bite Inhibition must be established before 18 weeks of age” (Ian Dunbar After you get your puppy The clock is ticking, page 12 ISBN 1-888047-01-1 James and Kenneth Publishers)</li> <li>○ Teaches to better handle himself if the other dog isn’t as well behaved and gives good coping mechanisms</li> </ul>                    |
| <b>Other animals</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Purpose</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Deer</li> <li>○ Rabbits</li> <li>○ Farm Live Stock (cows/horses/goats)</li> <li>○ Birds</li> <li>○ Squirrels</li> <li>○ Wildlife</li> <li>○ Cats</li> <li>○ Caged Pets</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Learn not to chase other animals to be respectful of their nature</li> <li>○ Teaches them regardless of size there is nothing to fear</li> <li>○ By having the puppy on a lead and rewarding the non fearful behavior to create a positive experience around other animals will help him adjust better if he ever encounters other animals</li> <li>○ Be good if you lived in the city to go to a farm to experience livestock</li> <li>○ Going on hikes could create exposure to wildlife and mentally stimulate the puppy with the sensory rich environment</li> </ul> |
| <b>Toys/Play</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Purpose</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Wrestling/Roughhousing</li> <li>○ Bite Inhibition Games</li> <li>○ Different Toys Such As Sizes, Textures, Noisy, Materials</li> <li>○ Tug Of War</li> </ul>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Learns life skills through games, teaching using a variety of different types to help with motivation</li> <li>○ Wrestling/roughhousing can build confidence help with bite inhibition and self control</li> <li>○ Helps with resource guarding</li> <li>○ Stimulates mind helps to problem solve</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Creates a bond with humans and shows humans can be fun</li> <li>○ Play can be used as a training method to make learning more fun.</li> <li>○ Helps your dog with people socialization because it makes him fun to be around</li> <li>○ Certain games help indulge natural behaviors like fetch (retrieving) or hide and seek</li> </ul>                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Grooming</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Purpose</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The actual act of brushing</li> <li>○ The sound of clippers</li> <li>○ The sound of dryers</li> <li>○ Teeth cleaning</li> <li>○ Smells Of Products that are used</li> <li>○ Nail Clipping</li> <li>○ Ear Cleaning</li> <li>○ Bathing</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sits nicely while being brushed, keeps coat healthy,</li> <li>○ Keeps skin healthy</li> <li>○ Can be rewarding for the dog</li> <li>○ Helps you become familiar with the dog so that you notice any abnormalities you can seek veterinary care and catch medical ailments quickly</li> <li>○ Easier for a groomer</li> <li>○ Good for his overall health</li> </ul>                                                                                        |
| <b>Confinement</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Purpose</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Crate</li> <li>○ Small area in the house</li> <li>○ Pen</li> <li>○ Outdoor Run</li> <li>○ Fenced Yard Confinement</li> </ul>                                                                                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Creates a safe place for the puppy to go and makes it his happy place</li> <li>○ Teaches to accept alone time</li> <li>○ Cuts down on destruction of household items</li> <li>○ Helps with housetraining</li> <li>○ Allows for direction of chew toys</li> <li>○ Helps establish routines.</li> <li>○ Teaches to be comfortable while alone in a back yard</li> <li>○ Gives the puppy somewhere to go if he is overwhelmed and needs quiet time</li> </ul> |

There are many problems that may arise should you not put a lot of time and effort into socializing your puppy. The problems can be mild to extreme. So extreme in fact that according to the website <http://www.morrco.com/pusoismu.html> states that “more dogs die today, not from disease, but from behavioral problems due to lack of socialization.” Although unfortunate, some vets recommend that you do not allow exposure to environments or other dogs until the puppy is fully vaccinated. However, by the time that vaccines are complete you have lost very valuable time as the socialization period has such a small window. One of the major repercussions of not socializing your puppy is aggression either towards other dogs or people. This could lead to potential biting, which can cause a great deal of damage if bite inhibition was not taught and practiced at

an early age. This is why it is important that a puppy stay with his litter mates until 8 weeks of age and that dog-dog socialization continue with a variety of dogs so that the puppy can practice greeting rituals, appropriate play, and bite inhibition. Under socialization also can cause a state of physical and emotional stress that could be life long for the puppy. If the puppy is always in a constant state of stress it can weaken the immune system and it is harder for the puppy to bounce back from what he perceives as a scary situation, which could impact him as well for the rest of his life. Lack of socialization also makes it more difficult for the puppy to learn anything new as he has the potential to be in “shut down” mode, as he just can’t cope with his daily environment. His inability to cope in every day life makes for an unpredictable adult dog that can not be trusted, which is unfortunate as most behavior problems could be avoided and prevented from the start with proper, well set up and organized socialization.

**References:**

Preventing Puppy Problems- Dee Woodcock ISBN 0-9541636-1-3

Urban Puppy.com Kit

Intro to Canine Psychology page 7/8

After You get your Puppy Dr. Ian Dunbar ISBN:1-888047-01-1

Puppy Parenting Jan Greye and Gail Smith ISBN 0-06-039315-7

Dr. Dunbar’s Good Little Dog Book- Dr. Ian Dunbar ISBN: 1-888047-02-X