

OH MY DOG!



Puppy socialisation checklist

1. Print the list out
2. Highlight the items that seem relevant to you. What is relevant?
 - a. Situations which you would like your dog to find normal and feel comfortable/calm in.
 - b. Particularly - BUT NOT ONLY - situations to which you feel your dog is already overreacting (e.g. growling, fear, barking, over-excitement).
 - c. Don't forget about future vacations / house moves
3. Practise way more for situations to which your dog already overreacts (BUT keep it free-choice, moderate, nice, etc. - see Criteria)
4. Criteria for effective socialisation: At least 5 exposures per relevant row, preferably way more, following these criteria:

Free choice At the puppy's pace Restraining, luring ≠ socialisation	Not too little To point of generalisation Not just your kids/neighbour's dog/going to puppy class	Positive 1 st impressions count Scary vet visit ≠ socialisation	Moderate NOT overwhelming Birthday party ≠ socialisation
Caaaalm Teach good habits Over-exciting encounters ≠ socialisation	Not too much 1-2 firsts/day, not a million	Long-term Even beyond 15 weeks	Structured, planned Not gung-ho Kids' school run ≠ socialisation

	1	2	3	4	5
Persons (age and appearance). Remember: free choice and calm, not forced and overwhelming					
Babies (look, don't touch)					
Child (remember, free choice and calm, no overwhelming the pup)					
Elderly					
More crowded area (e.g. city centre)					
All sorts of ethnicities					
Heavy-built people					
Person with hijab (keep your dog at a distance, teach your dog to ignore)					
Wheelchair/stroller user.					
Uniforms (e.g. vet lab coat, uniformed policeman/fireman, delivery person (especially with bike helmet, people with sunglasses)					
Beard/moustache					
Persons (movement & sound). Remember: at a comfortable distance! At first, reward the dog for looking at the person, then lure the dog away. Repeatedly, so that the dog learns to disengage and not obsess/fixate.					
Skateboarding/in-line skating					
Riding bicycle					
Jogging					
Riding horse					
Drunk, people with 'odd' gait					
Dancing and horsing around					
Hoovering (first off, then on)					
Yelling, speaking through loudspeakers					

	1	2	3	4	5
Animals. Remember: at a comfortable distance! At first, reward the dog for looking at the 'trigger', then lure the dog away. Repeatedly, so that the dog learns to disengage and not obsess/fixate.					
Farm animals (hens, cows, sheep, etc.)					
Horses					
Wild birds (ducks, swans, ...)					
Other dogs (friendly!)					
Dogs (offlead): Look for calm, tolerant, friendly dogs to teach your dog play rules					
Dogs (on the lead): No interaction, stay calm, ignore, move on					
Unfamiliar cats: No interaction, stay calm, ignore, move on					
Own pets (dogs, cats, birds, hamster, etc.): keep it safe and relaxed for the other pets too; Interactions only allowed if all are calm					
Floors & substrate - If the dog is hesitant, then reward any spontaneous approach to that surface at first. Do not pressure the dog into approaching but subtly walk in that direction yourself. Reward and walk away at the point your dog hesitates. Rinse, repeat, rinse, repeat until he/she no longer hesitates.					
Manhole covers, metal grates					
Stairs (open! and closed) - Follow your veterinarian's advice on frequency					
Shiny floors, tiles, etc.					
Gravel, cement, woodland, grass, pavement, etc.					
Transportation: First at a distance, then one stop, then more stops. Always interrupt before your dog shows signs of feeling overwhelmed.					
Bus					
Train / Tram					
Car rides					
Crate training! (food + gradual duration + door open 1st sessions)					
City / daily life - Always interrupt BEFORE the dog feels overwhelmed					
Automatic sliding doors & rotating doors					
Truck - sound of trucks and other loud traffic					
Elevator (ride it, lots of treats in 1st sessions)					
Leash and collar/harness (If tricky, then first a treat for touching it; then for tolerating it around the neck for short period; then for longer periods)					
Escalator (carry dog + lots of treats for 1st few sessions)					
Balconies (under supervision!)					
Construction and machinery noises (at a distance!)					
Walking in the wind, rain, snow, dark					
Thunder/fireworks (stap: play 'bang' sound at low level -> stop sound & treat + praise; then try increasingly loud (but <u>not so loud the dog minds!</u>);					
Grooming and veterinary care: Start slow, work in high-rep short sessions, stop BEFORE the dog minds. You do NOT have to complete the grooming job during practice sessions. Priority = getting dog familiarised/comfortable with it.					
The dog wearing a jacket					
Veterinary visits - At first just sniffing around in waiting + examination rooms + examination table; Then interaction with vet that look like treatment (e.g. restraint, pen in the neck, etc.). Always stopping BEFORE the dog minds.					
Wearing muzzle (1st filled with treats & short sessions; then attached and treat after; then increase duration)					
Wearing Elizabethan collar (encourage curiosity, only reward AFTER dog has explored it). Reward for longer and longer 'stays' in the cone. When you can attach it, couple wearing it with treats/games.					
Nail trimming (1st hold paw briefly, then longer then touch paw with file, then touch nail with file, then file stays on paw longer, then rubbing with file.					
Bath/shower/shampoo/rinse					
Brushing					
Tooth brushing Let the dog get familiar with the finger brush (without brushing); let the dog get familiar with you lifting their lip; only then start brushing					
Press on/hold each part of body (say body part, touch it shortly, stop, reward; repeat, repeat, repeat and hold on increasingly longer)					