

Socialization ideas for Puppies In Training

When considering exposing your pup to any of the things listed below, please exercise common sense and knowledge of your own puppy's temperament and review the guidelines provided to you by your Puppy Coordinator.

Many of these things are not appropriate for young puppies under 6 months; please consult with your PC if you have any doubts about your pup being ready.

Please take Fear Periods into consideration as well.

Remember that dogs take their cues from their handlers- NEVER coddle a pup that is afraid. Instead, act as if everything is fine and help the pup recover from his/her fear (food is a great thing!). If your pup does not "recover" from a certain fear- talk to your PC and return another time to work on it again.

Remember that building confidence overall and the ability to "deal with life" and remain relaxed in all situations is more important than how many things you expose your pup to.

People: (smell, appearance, walk, voice, clothing)

Babies

Kids

Teenagers

Adults

Little adults

Big adults

People in uniform

People wearing equipment (i.e. diving equipment, firefighters, etc)

People in raincoats

People wearing sunglasses

People wearing hats

People dressed inappropriately for the season (i.e. big coat and winter hat on a hot day/at the beach)

People dressed minimally (i.e. pool/beach)

People carrying/pushing/pulling baggage/backpacks

People running (i.e. jogging, running in play, running to catch a plane, etc)

People at airports swerving in and out quickly

People sideswiping you with backpacks and running over you with luggage carts.

People pushing carts (i.e. shopping/luggage)

People/kids with awkward/jerky movements/unsteady gait

People on moving sidewalks (i.e. airports) where the dog can't see their

feet
People standing in trains/subways (when train comes to a stop)
Manikins/statues

Smells:

Hospitals
Cigarette/cigars/fire smoke (i.e. firefighters' gear)
Museums
Bakery
Meat/fish market
Ocean's creatures and plant life smells

Transportation/Surfaces:

Cars
Buses
Wheelchair lift in van/bus
Trains/subways

Airplanes (some say riding in front half of plane is different than back half of plane- noise and vibrations are different)
Boats/moving docks
Grates/grills (manholes, around trees at mall, etc)
Gaps between ground and train, etc.
Open staircases (i.e. deck, bleachers, etc)
Cable cars
Roller coaster rides (that are safe for dogs!)
Sand
Pebbles
Rocks (walking or climbing onto)
See-through stairs, floors, walls (i.e. elevators, second floor at mall, etc)
Elevator (see-through and regular walls) *–please be extremely careful with elevator and other automatic doors!!*
Snow
Icy ground/road/sidewalk (carefully!)

Movement/Noise:

Curtains i.e. showers, voting booth, windows
Clothes on clothesline, i.e. sheets, shirts, winter coats
Space shuttle landing/take off
Automatic doors
Hospital/power beds
Carwash

Cars/trucks passing you (with window partly open, but watch out for flying stones)
Lawn mowers
Leaf/snow blowers
Weed whacker
Kitchen appliances- dishwasher, blender, etc.
Vacuum cleaner
Fork lifts- Home Depot style- carrying/moving things/backing up while Beeping
Mini-vehicles i.e. golf carts, courtesy carts at airports, etc.
Plastic bags blowing in the wind (and leaves, for that matter)
Nylon covering plants in winter blowing in the wind
Luggage on conveyer belts at airports
Luggage falling onto conveyer belt from behind curtain

Animals:

Birds
Critters
Small animals
Reptiles
Bugs
Strange dogs off leash/different sizes
Strange dogs “guarding” parked cars/in cars while you’re driving
Farm animals
Huge sea animals at eye level (i.e. sharks/whales at aquarium/museum)
Statues

Events/Places:

County fairs
Car shows
Casinos
Firehouse
Busy mall/stores/airport
Concerts/shows

*Be very careful when exposing older pups to fireworks- make sure your pup is old enough and confident enough, and make sure his collar is tight enough so that if he gets scared and tries to bolt it will not slip over his (or her) head.

****WHEN IN DOUBT- CONSULT WITH YOUR PUPPY COORDINATOR!****