

# SOCIALISATION

Socialisation is one of the most important roles of a new puppy owner. Puppies' brains develop considerably from 6 weeks-16 weeks of age. During this time, the puppy learns a lot about their world. It is a unique window of time that will impact the puppy for life. Socialisation is the process by which your puppy is exposed to as many facets of life as possible.

Puppies that are well socialised are more secure adults, and more adaptable adults. If nothing else is done, the most important thing a puppy owner can do is expose the puppy to as many things as possible. To be beneficial, these exposures must be *positive*.

Puppies should be exposed, in a positive or neutral way, to as many things as possible. Negative experiences that occur during the socialisation window can affect a puppy for life. Some recent research suggests that puppies need to be exposed to things several times over the socialisation period.

<p><b>Weird things</b> Big plastic objects Plastic bags Balloons Umbrellas Mirrors Big balls Thrown things Shopping trolleys Prams Fast movement Kids toys Wind socks Brooms Vaccuum cleaner The wind The wind blowing bushes/trees Flags Balls and frisbees Tents Flashlights</p>	<p><b>Travelling</b> Escalators Lifts The car Planes</p> <p><b>Other animals</b> Puppy school Big dog Little dog Shaggy dog Smooth dog Goats Cows Sheep Alpacas Chickens Horses Cats Bull breed dogs Rabbits Birds</p>
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**Different Types of People**

Men  
Women  
Boys  
Girls  
Shuffling people  
Slouched people  
People with glasses  
People on crutches  
People with walking sticks  
People with walking frames  
People walking strangely  
Babies  
Parties  
People on roller blades  
Wheelchairs  
Fat people  
Thin people  
Tall people  
Short people  
People in dress ups (masks, costumes, big hats, etc)  
People in big coats  
People with beards  
People with sunglasses  
People of all races  
Bald people  
People exercising (running, jogging, star jumps, etc)  
Children and babies  
Dancing people  
Busking people

**Different surfaces**

Bean bags  
Tiles  
Floorboards  
Bubble wrap  
Different walking surfaces  
Wobbly bridges  
Heights  
Agility Equipment  
Gravel

**Water stuff**

Sprinklers  
Hoses  
Being wet by the hose  
Water  
The beach  
The bath  
Swimming pools  
People swimming  
Water feature  
Rain

**Places**

Airport  
Skate park  
Bus depot  
Train station  
Shopping malls  
Loud fun places ( e.g. Luna Park, show, fair)  
Football game  
Supermarket  
School  
Coffee shop  
Building site  
Bunnings  
Wreckers yard  
The gym  
Tennis game  
Office  
Speed way  
Place with crowds  
Main roads

**Moving and making noise**

Lawn mower  
Bikes  
Vaccum cleaner  
Skate boards  
Scooters  
Bus  
Train  
Tractors  
Whipper snippers  
Ride on lawn mowers  
Bob cats  
Cars  
Trucks  
Motorbikes  
Chainsaws  
Fork lift  
Helicopters  
Aeroplanes  
Sirens  
Hair dryer  
Suit cases  
Go Karts  
Wheelie Bins  
Remote control cars  
Ceiling fans  
'Life sized' pictures of people  
Glass sliding doors  
Boats

**Noises**

Fireworks  
Storms (e.g. thunder and lightning)  
Parties  
Computer dial up  
Musical instruments (piano, guitar, saxophone)  
Gunshot  
Cheering  
School bell  
Sound effects CD  
Saucepans  
Radio  
Lawn mower  
Loud noises  
The sound of a carbonated drink opening

**Being restrained**

Leads  
Harnesses  
Halti/head harness  
Muzzle  
Opening mouth  
Cutting nails  
Grooming (as appropriate to the breed)  
Clippers  
Being tethered  
Having ears cleaned  
Having eyes cleared  
Having every part of the body handled  
Being picked up  
Teeth cleaning  
Being carried on a stretcher  
Being bandaged  
Elizabethan collar  
The vet