



## Puppy Socialization Checklist

Puppy socialization is a series of small adventures that you take with your pup over time, gradually & repetitively providing him positive experiences. Don't limit yourself to a checklist. Think of your life & where you will take your pup so that you can introduce him early! For more information on socialization [visit Paw Pack's blog post](#).

Handling	
With pup laying down, rub gently all over (as though you are giving him a massage)	Lift & gently tug on tail
Gently handle (hold) each paw	Brush pup (use a soft brush)
Gently squeeze each paw	With pup on his back, give belly rub
Separate toes on each paw	Gently hold skin (around neck & shoulder blades)
Trim toe nails	Hold pup as if giving a hug around body
Touch nose and around eyes	Gently grasp collar
Look in ears	Take collar on/off (do with harness if you use one)
Look in mouth	Put coat on/off
People	
Vet and vet techs	Elderly people
Groomer, pet sitter, mail carrier	People using a wheelchair/scooter
Tall people	People using an oxygen tank or other medical device
People of different ethnicities	People using a cane or walker or crutches
Men with beards and/or Mustaches	People running
People with deep voices	People biking
Groups of people (4 or more, small crowds)	People skateboarding
Wearing winter hats, scarves, hoodies	People rollerblading (in-line skating)
Wearing a mask (face covered)	Pushing a baby carriage (stroller)
Wearing long coats	People on a motorcycle
Wearing cowboy hats	Babies crawling
Wearing baseball caps	Crying infants
Wearing sunglasses	Toddlers walking and running
Wearing backpacks	Children playing & screaming (schoolyards, parks, etc)
Wearing helmets (bike, motorcycle, construction)	People clapping and cheering
Animals	
Other puppies of same age	Cats
Adult dogs who are appropriate with puppies (not just dogs in the family)	Livestock (Chicken, Duck, Alpaca, Goat, Sheep, Pig, Cows, etc)
Very Small dogs (such as Yorkies & Chihuahuas)	Horses, Donkeys, Llamas
Very Large dogs (such as Pyrenees & Great Danes)	Rabbits, Guinea Pigs
Seeing dogs on a walk (& through a fence if you have one)	
Everyday Things Inside	
Doorbell ringing	Umbrella opening & closing
Door Knocking	Alarm clock buzzing
Ceiling fan / window fan running	Microwave/Stove/Dishwasher Beeping
Walking on Carpet	Hair Dryer on
Walking on slippery surfaces (wood, tile, linoleum)	Toaster popping up
Walking up/down stairs (carpet, wood, cement, etc)	Plastic bag being shaken out (little & big bags)
Pot/pan dropping on floor	Mops and brooms being used
Vacuuming	Garage door opening/closing

***Puppy Socialization continued...***

**Everyday Things Outside**

	Taking a car trip (in the car, in crate or with seatbelt)		Rolling garbage cans, wheelbarrows, or carts
	Honking horns		Walking along a city street (or busy parking lots)
	Trucks & Buses passing		Walking in a park or rural setting (hikes)
	Motorcycles (running and passing by)		Walking in the dark
	Tractors / lawnmowers (running & passing by)		Walking in a pet store
	Trains passing by		Fireworks
	Auto-sliding doors		Visiting the vet
	Boats and/or Jet Skis		Visiting the groomer (if you plan to use one)
	ATV and/or Snowmobiles		