

The first 16 weeks of a puppy's life are the most critical time for socialization. During this time dogs are more accepting of new environments and experiences. Puppy-hood is a time to be proactive and prevent problem behaviors from developing.

Keep in mind:

- Exposure alone is not socialization
- Your dog is the one who determines if an interaction or experience was positive. Not you!
- NEVER force your dog into an interaction

People

- Women
- Men
- Infants
- Toddlers
- Teenagers
- People with deep voices
- Elderly
- Delivery people
- People with hats, helmets
- People with canes, walkers, wheelchairs
- Joggers
- Bicyclists

Animals

- Small dogs
- Large dogs
- Fluffy dogs
- Young dogs
- Old dogs
- Male dogs
- Female dogs
- Cats and kittens
- Birds
- Horses
- Cows
- Sheep
- Chickens

Environments

- Vet
- Car
- Parks
- Playgrounds
- Elevators
- Stairs
- Stores
- Crowds
- Tile
- Wood
- Grass
- Sand
- Carpet
- Gravel
- Puddles
- Mud
- Bridges

Handling

- Ears
- Tail
- Paws, toenails
- Brushed
- Bathed
- Teeth check, brushed
- Cleaning eyes
- Wearing collar, harness
- Dried off