

Socialization check list: (Exposure should be fun or at least neutral. If you see a fearful response or avoidance behavior, increase distance or otherwise reduce the intensity of interaction until the puppy/dog is happy)

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Created by Chris Puls (feel free to use/share)

PEOPLE:		PLACES:	SOUNDS:	SURFACES:
Friendly interaction with:		Outside at night	Phone	Carpet (thick/thin)
Tall		Outside when it's windy	Dish Washer	Linoleum/tile/hardwood
Large		In the rain	Clothes washer/dryer	Grass (short, long, wet)
Short		Walking trails	Hairdryer	Mud
White		Open field	Coffee Grinder	Concrete
Black		Beach	Vacuum	Blacktop
Hispanic		Friend's houses	Shower	Bricks/pavers
Asian		Pet friendly business	Loud music	Rocks/gravel
Smoke/alcohol on breath		College	Dropping pans	Bark/mulch
In coats (bulky or long)		Outside grade school	Overhead garage door	Wood/deck
In hats		Retirement Center	Lawn mower	Stairs (closed riser)
In wheelchair/walker		Busy parking lots	Dremel tool	Stairs (open riser)
Crutches		Pedestrian tunnel	Screaming/crying kids	Sand
Using umbrella		Quiet party/gathering	Laughing kids/adults	Wet
Pushing shopping cart		Big city/downtown	Barking dogs	Warm
Elderly		Shopping center	Thunder/heavy rain	Cold
In mask/costume		Hotel	Shouting	Makes noise
Babies/strollers/cribs		Flea market	Singing (live)	Plastic (sheeting)
Safe kids 5-10 yrs old		Airport/helipad	Cheering/applause	Plastic (hard/solid)
Kids 10-15	Carry young puppy or wait for immunity to go in:		Sirens/Alarm	Slippery (tub/ice, etc.)
Teens			Beeping	Uneven/rough
Veterinarian in Dr. coat		Grooming shop	Whistling	Squishy (couch/bed)
Police officer in uniform		Vet office	Whistle (blown)	Metal
Firefighter in turnout gear		Pet Store	Clanging	Grate/mesh/netting
Observe at safe and/or comfortable distance:		Dog show/event/trial	Squeaking	Ramp/incline
		Puppy Kindergarten	Shopping carts	Slide (playground)
Runners/Joggers		Dog park	Traffic/Honking	Moving/unstable
Cyclists		Dog daycare	Weed wacker	Agility contacts
Skateboarding			Construction sites	High surface
Skating/rollerblade			Waterfall	Fixed boat dock
Wrestling			Cars Honking	Floating boat dock
Stationary crowds	EATING FROM:		Airplane/helicopter	Corn field pre-harvest
Moving crowds		Your hands/fingers	Echo (voices/shots)	Corn field with stubble
Crying baby		Other people's hands	Quiet popping	Stubble cut field
Angry people		Metal bowl	Air in plastic bag	Thick scrub brush
Carrying large load		Plastic bowl	Smack 2x4s together	Shallow water/puddle
Shooter (for gun dogs)		Flat plate	Balloons	Deeper water
Football/baseball team		Paper plate	Outside indoor gun range	Moving water
		Glass container	Gun range (distant)	Water with lilly pads
		Treat dispensing toy	Gun range (close)	Thick muddy water
		Kong/stuffed toy	Bird calls (different)	Pond with underwater weeds/trees
	Eating off of:		Bird launcher	
		Grass/straw	Bird splashing into H2O	Salt water
		Concrete/Brick/Pavers	Real ducks/geese	Waves
		Dirt	Boat motors	Sucking/grabbing mud
		Sand	Walkie-talkies	Snow
		Water (floating treat)	Garbage truck	Bubble wrap
			Motorcycle	Aluminum foil

OTHER ANIMALS:		PLAY WITH:		CONTACT/SPATIAL:		OTHER:	
	Puppies of dif. breeds		You/your hands		Collar grab		Photos taken (including flash)
	Playful dogs		Soft/stuffed toys		Touch/hold feet		Practice waiting quietly in crate in several places
	Friendly but aloof dogs		Squeaky toys		Touch/tap/clip nails		Swimming
	Stern dogs		Fleece toys/tugs		Use dremel on nails		Automatic doors
	Dogs of all sizes		Appropriate sized ball		Touch/look in ears		Balloons (Helium type/ squeaky sound made)
	Dogs of all colors		Oversized/herding ball		Touch/hold tail		Animatronic decorations
	Dogs with different hair		Food dispensing toy		Full body restraint		Stuff in the sky (kite, plane, Blimp, etc.)
	Cropped ears/tail		Food stuffed toy/Kong		Gently tug on fur		Person hugging puppy
	Pushed in noses		Moo tug/soft rubber		Brush all over body		Person blowing air in face
	Missing limbs		Frisbees (hard/soft)		Look at/brush teeth		
	Deaf and/or blind		"flirt pole" toy		Take temperature		
	Playing/wrestling		Giggle ball		Hug		
	Running/chasing		Talking toy		Lift/hold/carry		
	Friendly cats		Light up/flashing toy		Lean over the dog/pup		
	Unfriendly cats		Nylabone		Lie on side		
	Rodents/pocket pets		Bully stick		Lie on back		
	Reptiles		Rope toy		Gently stretch/massage		
	Rabbits		Bumper (bigger pups)		Give bath		
	Ferrets		Cardboard boxes		Dried with towel/blower		TRANSPORT:
	Fish tanks		Plastic bottles				Car/passenger van
	Birds (pets)		Crumpled paper				Truck/Cargo van
	Birds (wild/waterfowl)		Chamois rag				Shopping cart
	Chickens/turkeys/ducks		Soft leather rag/tug		Desensitize to SCENTS:		Flat wheeled cart
	Horses of all sizes	Note: Be sure toys are proper size/hardness for your puppy/dog.			"Critter odors" for any outdoor sports		Wheelbarrow
	Cows				Critter poop		Elevator
	Sheep				Bird scent (gun dogs)		Escalator (with jump)
	Other livestock				Cooking food		Bus
	Note: Young puppies can observe other animals from a distance if immunity is a concern.				Other people's treats		Plane
				Food/treats on floor		Row Boat/kayak	
				Dead animals		Motor boat	
						Golf cart	
						Train	
						Subway	
						4-wheeler	
						Ambulance (Service dog)	

Note that this exposure should ideally be started by your puppy's breeder after the pups eyes open. So if they are not already providing you with this list, filled in with what the puppy has already experienced, you might want to share it with any future breeders you plan to get a puppy from so they can get started early with your next puppy.

American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior (AVSAB) Position Statement on Puppy Socialization:

The primary and MOST important time for puppy socialization is the first three months of life. During this time puppies should be exposed to as many new people, animals, stimuli and environments as can be achieved safely and without causing over-stimulation manifested as excessive fear, withdrawal or avoidance behavior. For this reason, the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior believes that it should be the standard of care for puppies to receive such socialization before they are fully vaccinated. Because the first three months are the period when sociability outweighs fear, this is the primary window of opportunity for puppies to adapt to new people, animals, and experiences. Incomplete or improper socialization during this important time can increase the risk of behavioral problems later in life including fear, avoidance, and/or aggression. Behavioral problems are the greatest threat to the owner-dog bond. In fact, behavioral problems are the number one cause of relinquishment to shelters. Behavioral issues, not infectious diseases, are the number one cause of death for dogs under three years of age.

Additional information from the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) at the bottom of this page:

<https://www.avma.org/public/PetCare/Pages/Protect-Your-Dogs-Yourself-and-Others.aspx>