# WHAT IS SOCIALISATION?

Providing positive, varied and safe experiences to help our puppies learn to be calm, confident and cope as adult dogs in a human environment



## **PEOPLE**

Age • Gender • Ethnicity • Accessories • Actions

Male/female: babies, toddlers, kids, teenagers, adults, elderly European, African, Asian, Indian, Middle Eastern Raincoats, flowing dresses, turbans, uniforms, hi-vis, gumboots Beards, sun/glasses, hats, umbrellas, walking sticks/frames, crutches Sitting, running, lying down, giggling, talking loudly, whispering Vet clinic receptionist, nurses, techs and vet, groomers, sportspeople

## **VEHICLES**

Big • Small • Loud • Quiet • Motorised • Manual

Trucks, buses, trains - overground and underground Cars, vans, motorbikes Bicycles, tricycles. skateboards, rollerblades Wheelchairs, mobility scooters, supermarket trollies Construction, roadworks and emergency response vehicles



## **HANDLING**

Touch • Inspect • Groom • Procedures

Petting with consent testing

Check and inspect body, legs, paws, ears, tail, eyes, mouth, teeth Brush, body clippers, scissors, bathing, dryer, groom table Nail clippers, Dremel, scratchboard, flea treatment Chin rest, hand touch, imitation instruments, saline drops,

## **ANIMALS**

Pets • Wildlife • Farm • Active • Quiet

Cats, pet rabbits, guinea pigs, budgies Seagulls, sparrows, blackbirds, hedgehogs, wild rabbits Chickens, sheep, cows, horses Observing dogs on lead, off lead, walking, running, playing Supervised interactions with known vaccinated dogs or in class Male/female, desexed/entire, indoors/outdoors



## **EXPERIENCES**

Textures • Smells • Places • Sounds

Sun, rain, wind, snow, hail, lightening, thunder, hoses, soap bubbles Sand, shells, pebbles/gravel, water, short/long grass, astroturf, trees Metal, brick, tiles, wood, concrete, tarmac, carpet, paper, cardboard Bubble wrap, electric tools, sirens, fireworks (use low volume media) Tall buildings, bins, fans, vacuum, dishwasher, washing machine School/supermarket carparks, hardware/pet stores, cafes, markets,





### BENEFITS OF EARLY SOCIALISATION

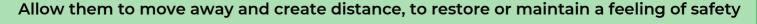
- ► Highly influential time during first 3 16 weeks of age, before fully vaccinated
- ► Habituation and comfortable familiarity with everyday things and situations
- Creates a history of safe and positive experiences
- ▶ Builds curiosity and resilience to future novelty and surprise
- ▶ Strengthens your relationship bond and increases trust
- ► Significantly reduces the development of behaviour problems later in life

# **HOW TO SOCIALISE YOUR PUPPY**

- Keep puppy at a distance where they feel safe, secure and can still respond to you whilst processing new things
- Allow puppy to explore at their own pace; avoid being pushy by luring or coaxing them, if they are uncertain or disinterested
- Puppy should have a loose wiggly body when investigating or observing - we want to see a curious puppy enjoying themselves
- Limit how many new things/situations puppy is exposed to at one time or in one outing - avoid over-socialisation
- Before fully vaccinated (see Important Info below) bring the outdoors in, take car rides, carry in arms/bag/pram/trolley, meet friends/family/neighbours, known dogs

#### LOOK OUT FOR SIGNS PUPPY IS OVERWHELMED OR FEARFUL...

- Tucked Tail, Cowering, Shaking
- Ears Flat and Back
- Tongue Flicks/Lip Licking (not from food)
- Yawning or Scratching (out of context)
- **Turning or Backing Away**
- **Barking or Lunging**
- **Panting Heavily**
- Lifting/Holding a Paw Up



### **IMPORTANT VACCINATION INFO**

#### **UP TO 10 WEEKS**

Regardless of vaccination status. Only environments known to be safe & free from parvovirus - eg. your home, car, friends or family. Your vet can advise any local outbreaks. Avoid public spaces. Physical contact with unknown or unvaccinated dogs are NOT safe.

#### 10 - 12 WEEKS

At least one vaccination. Expand to public spaces, carry in arms or contain off the ground or put on blanket. Lower risk for puppy classes and vet visits. Other physical contact with unknown or unvaccinated dogs and dog parks are NOT safe.

#### 12-16 WEEKS

At least one vaccination. Expand to street walks, cafes, just after low tide at quiet beaches or off-peak times. Avoid unvaccinated dogs, dog parks and popular grass areas where dogs have been.

#### **16 WEEKS+**

When your puppy completes all their vaccinations, talk to your vet about how long to wait for full protection (usually 7-14 days), before venturing into more public places such as busier parks and meeting new dogs. Remember not to overdo it!





