



## SOCIALISATION AND HABITUATION

1. Visit other buildings – friends' houses, village hall, dog friendly shops.
2. Locations – Woods, big open spaces, riverside, brook, water, country walk.
3. Surfaces, carpet, sand, gravel, wood floor, tiles, grass, wet /shiny floor...
4. Traffic moving, outside machinery – lawnmowers, motorbikes, cars, lorries, engine sounds stationary and moving.
5. Interact, play and be hand fed by as many people as possible i.e. children, people with buggies, disabled people and buggy, people in street with bags, umbrella's, hats and trolleys.
6. Public places – Car parks, fêtes/local show, high street, hand fed by people in these places as far as possible.
7. Car journey, gradually increasing distance – enjoyable with treat at end.
8. Vet's – a social 'hello' and game in waiting room, good positive experience.
9. Other puppies and dogs on and off lead.
10. Other people's household pets i.e. cats, rabbits, livestock – sheep, cows and horses
11. Handled well / stroked / fed by as many people as possible to include elderly, teenagers and gentle introductions to the scent and sound of babies.
12. Other sights and sound – hair-dryer, Gunshots, Loud music, Thunder, Shouting and cheering, crowds of people and fast-moving children (school and play areas). Indoor appliances – Blenders, vacuum cleaners, T.V, radio, washer / dryer
13. Other animal noises – cows, sheep, ducks, hens, horses, geese.
14. Engines, tractors, lorries, cars, motorbikes, Sounds of crowds – local cricket / football / school pitch.  
Moving / dragging furniture and large objects.
15. Other dogs playing.
16. Babies – crying, laughing etc.
17. Outdoor - shed noises, drills, saws, hedge trimmers, strimmer's, pressure washer...
18. Children and adults dressed up i.e. clowns, stilts, face paint etc.
19. People on skates, skate board, wheel chair, disabled buggy, kids in pushchairs, / prams.
20. Steps, stairwells, traffic lights, phone box, street sights.  
Sounds of sirens, telephones, fireworks, fire. As many different floor surfaces as possible.  
Visit here for downloadable sounds to help your puppy: -

**(<https://soundcloud.com/dogstrust/sets/sound-therapy-sounds-sociable>)**

This list isn't exhaustive, up to 14 weeks of age will be invaluable for his/her future calmness and balanced mind if these experiences are pleasant and your pup feels safe.

**Make sure that each experience is a **positive** one. It is important that if your puppy is concerned about anything that he is not encouraged/coaxed or forced into a situation that worries him, instead, allow him to take his time and reinforce any positive voluntary interest with praise and a treat and end each experience on a good note whilst the puppy is still **keen and inquisitive**.**



## EARLY DAYS

**Every behaviour you reinforce your puppy for will likely be repeated.** Look out for the things you **DO** want your puppy to do and **PAY** him with attention/treats/voice/touch -gently. Always supply him with something to chew that is his to have.

A puppy will go through a '**fear period**', this can take place from the age of **8-11 weeks** and it is perfectly normal for you to see your puppy react with concern/ fear to an object/place or person. This is purely part of his development and may last for several days. Just make light of this and take the emphasis off the feared object by reinforcing confident behaviour or something the puppy already knows and can be rewarded for; the chances are he will ignore it next time.

**Play**, calm play, with toys reserved especially for this 'sharing' time makes for an ideal bonding and connecting opportunity that your puppy will enjoy. Dogs learn many skills through play, with us and play with other puppies of similar ages. By having just three or four toys available at any one time and then exchange/rotate with different ones / reintroduce every few days. Your puppy will be able to differentiate between things that are legal and keep maintain interest in the toys which are his to interact/play with.

**Toilet training.** A puppy will need **routine** and **reward** for every toileting opportunity. Your puppy's **age in months + 1** is roughly how long your puppy can hold his bladder for i.e., a 9-week puppy would be 3hrs ability to hold his bladder. Ideal opportunities to allow your puppy to toilet can be: -

- After a meal,
- On waking,
- Every couple of hours,
- If there is any excitement (be outside if possible).
- If your puppy looks to be circling/sniffing the ground or wakes from resting, quietly guide him (not carry) outside to toilet and lavish praise for eliminating where appropriate.

Make a chart/rota, stick it on the fridge and have all the family help your puppy to learn!

Please ignore any mistakes, as this is a very short phase of physical/mental development and will often be our own misjudgement of timing if mistakes occur. A puppy will learn very quickly and prefer to toilet outside if reinforced with praise/treats and given consideration and guidance for the things we prefer him to do in our human world.

Be a fun, playful guide for your puppy to build calm confidence and trust in you and the world around him.