

Socialization Hand-out

Surfaces:

Grass, cement, and dirt, parking lots

Stairs

Carpet, tile, linoleum, rugs, and shiny indoor commercial flooring like at pet stores

Manhole covers, metal flooring

Surfaces that move a bit or wobble beneath their feet, like clanging sidewalk plates or swinging bridges

Environmental:

Rain, snow, heat, and cold (being careful not to go to extremes and harm your pup)

Dog-friendly events

Car rides (shorter at first, then longer)

Kong toys (lightly stuffed first, then progressively harder)

Crates

Your vet's office and staff, groomer's office and staff, boarding kennel or pet sitter and staff

Fireworks (from a far distance), alarms, traffic, doorbells, jackhammers

Buses, motorcycles

Planes, trains, sirens, etc

Vacuum cleaner, broom, and lawn mower, snow blower

Forest, meadow, beach, mountain/bluff, rivers, ponds, large bodies of water, farm

Visual:

Umbrellas (opened and closed), rain coats, jackets, and winter coats, costume or unusual clothes

Caps, baseball hats, and wide-brimmed hats, helmets, hoodies, backpacks, large purses

Canes, walking sticks, walkers

Pots, pans, blankets, rugs, fans, balloons, gs blowing in wind

Sunglasses and regular glasses

Direct eye contact, direct eye contact with forward movement, direct eye contact with smile and forward movement

Bikes, trikes, wheelchairs, skateboards, rollerblades, scooters, and other wheeled non-motorized vehicles

People:

Infants squealing, crawling, in stroller or carrier
Children standing, walking, running, skipping, and jumping
Children being quiet, saying hi to the puppy, and being loud and obnoxious and playful
Teenagers
Men, especially larger, taller men, men with beards, men with deep voices
Women
People of various ethnic backgrounds
People with handicaps
The mail carrier and delivery person
People in uniforms

Other Animals:

Other dogs, both small, large, male, and female
Farm animals (if your puppy is at all likely to be exposed at a later date), cats, birds

Grooming:

Leash, collar, harness, and other equipment you will use regularly
Bathing, nail trims, teeth brushing, and other grooming rituals
Hugs, restraint, and head pats

In all of these, you need to be careful that these are good experiences. If you have an "oops", then be sure you seek out that very same category of socialization for 7 good experiences to every one bad experience, the sooner the better.

Your puppy should meet 100 different people in the first 12 weeks and 100 more people shortly thereafter for the best chance at being a well-socialized adult dog.

Contact Mel from Paw In Hand at 563-663-7554 or mel@pawhand.com with any questions or concerns!