

SOCIALIZATION

THE KEYS TO AN ADAPTABLE,
SOCIAL, AND WELL-MANNERED DOG

Use the checklist below along with our [socialization guide found here](#) to help track your dog's progress as you expose them to different situations, environments, and experiences.

Type of Socialization	Activity	Needs Work	Went Good	Date Tested
Handling the Dog	Check their ears			
	Check their mouth, gums, and teeth			
	Open their eyelids			
	Touch and squeeze their paws and legs			
	Touch their toenails			
	Tug on their fur and skin			
	Touch and poke their nose			
	Cradle them in your arms			
	Cradle them in your arms on their back			
	Hold them on their back for a while			
	Hold them in your lap			
	Give a belly rub while they're on their back			
	Hug them			
	Tug on their collar			
	Wipe their body, face, and feet with a towel			



Type of Socialization	Activity	Needs Work	Went Good	Date Tested
Unfamiliar People	Women			
	Tall men			
	Loud men			
	Men with hats			
	Men with facial hair			
	Elderly people			
	People wearing hats			
	People wearing boots			
	People wearing hoodies			
	People with backpacks or bags			
	People wearing sunglasses			
	People with canes, walking, or walkers			
	Children playing			
	Toddlers			
	Crawling babies			
	Crying babies			
People running				
Other Dogs	Dogs who play well, are very active			
	Dogs who play well, are more even keel			
	Dogs who will put them in their place appropriately with force if they get carried away			
	Dogs that are larger than them			
	Dogs that are smaller than them			
Pets and Other Animals	Cats			
	Birds			
	Bunnies			
	Squirrels			
	Livestock and horses (if possible)			

Type of Socialization	Activity	Needs Work	Went Good	Date Tested
Different Surfaces	Different flooring surfaces (concrete, wood, tile)			
	Slippery surfaces			
	Park benches			
	Metal surfaces (truck bed or sewer cover)			
	Wobbly or uneven surfaces (board with a ball underneath)			
	Mud, dirt, mulch			
	Stairs (wood, metal, carpet)			
	Wet and dry grass			
	Icy, snowy, or rainy surfaces (if applicable)			
Different Sounds	Heavy rain			
	Thunder			
	Doorbell			
	Car alarm			
	Alarm clock			
	Vacuum			
	Car starting			
	Emergency vehicles			
	Dogs barking			
	Tornado siren (if applicable)			
Things With Wheels	Cars			
	Rollerblades			
	Skateboards			
	Scooters			
	Strollers			
	Shopping carts			
	Bicycles			
	Wagons			



Type of Socialization	Activity	Needs Work	Went Good	Date Tested
Other Objects	Umbrellas			
	Brooms			
	Things blowing in the wind (trash, flags, signs)			
	Car doors opening			
	Sliding doors			
Different Environments	Busy parking lot			
	Dog-friendly stores			
	Vets office			
	Noisy park			
	Big buildings			
	Busy streets			
	Parking garage			