

# Socialization

The first four months of a puppy's life is known as the Critical Learning Phase. During this period your puppy is assessing what is good versus bad, and what is safe versus dangerous. So we must educate them to live in harmony within your community and lifestyle and encourage them to feel secure around new dogs, and we only have the first 16 weeks of their life to get this right.



## Check List

### SOCIALISATION

WEEK 8	WEEK 9	WEEK 10	WEEK 11	WEEK 12
<div><div></div> Meet 5+ new children</div> <div><div></div> Meet 5+ new men</div> <div><div></div> Meet 5+ new women</div> <div><div></div> 1+ puppy play date</div>	<div><div></div> Meet 5+ new children</div> <div><div></div> Meet 5+ new men</div> <div><div></div> Meet 5+ new women</div> <div><div></div> 1+ puppy play date</div>	<div><div></div> Meet 5+ new children</div> <div><div></div> Meet 5+ new men</div> <div><div></div> Meet 5+ new women</div> <div><div></div> 1+ puppy play date</div>	<div><div></div> Meet 5+ new children</div> <div><div></div> Meet 5+ new men</div> <div><div></div> Meet 5+ new women</div> <div><div></div> 1+ puppy play date</div>	<div><div></div> Meet 5+ new children</div> <div><div></div> Meet 5+ new men</div> <div><div></div> Meet 5+ new women</div> <div><div></div> 1+ puppy play date</div>
WEEK 13	WEEK 14	WEEK 15	WEEK 16	
<div><div></div> Meet 5+ new children</div> <div><div></div> Meet 5+ new men</div> <div><div></div> Meet 5+ new women</div> <div><div></div> 1+ puppy play date</div>	<div><div></div> Meet 5+ new children</div> <div><div></div> Meet 5+ new men</div> <div><div></div> Meet 5+ new women</div> <div><div></div> 1+ puppy play date</div>	<div><div></div> Meet 5+ new children</div> <div><div></div> Meet 5+ new men</div> <div><div></div> Meet 5+ new women</div> <div><div></div> 1+ puppy play date</div>	<div><div></div> Meet 5+ new children</div> <div><div></div> Meet 5+ new men</div> <div><div></div> Meet 5+ new women</div> <div><div></div> 1+ puppy play date</div>	



# Desensitisation

In addition to people and other dogs, we need to expose our dogs to a plethora of experiences, sounds, objects and environments within this four-month learning period. Build up your puppy's confidence using gentle praise and treats so they enjoy (or at least has little to no reaction with) the following:



## Check List

### DESENSITISATION

#### BEING HANDLED

- ☐ collar
- ☐ ears
- ☐ mouth/teeth
- ☐ eyes
- ☐ paw pads
- ☐ tail
- ☐ groin area
- ☐ belly

#### OTHER ANIMALS

- ☐ other dogs
- ☐ cats
- ☐ birds
- ☐ lizards
- ☐ cows
- ☐ horses
- ☐ rabbits/guinea pigs

#### OTHER HUMANS

- ☐ babies
- ☐ postman
- ☐ trade person
- ☐ people wearing hats / fluro / cloaks / boots
- ☐ crawling infants
- ☐ our elderly
- ☐ people using crutches, canes or in wheelchairs
- ☐ loud infants
- ☐ a runner
- ☐ tall men
- ☐ men with a deep voice / facial hair / beards

#### EXPERIENCES, OBJECTS & SOUNDS

- ☐ wet grass
- ☐ rain / sprinkler
- ☐ tent
- ☐ flying plastic bag
- ☐ statues
- ☐ car travel
- ☐ rake / broom
- ☐ puddles
- ☐ moving chairs
- ☐ umbrellas
- ☐ sirens
- ☐ hose
- ☐ cafe noises
- ☐ street noises
- ☐ dogs barking in the distance
- ☐ door bell
- ☐ simulated thunder / fireworks sound, starting at low volume and slowly increase
- ☐ stationary skateboard / scooter
- ☐ moving skateboard / scooter, starting slow
- ☐ simulated skateboard / truck / motorbike sound, starting low and increase volume
- ☐ stationary bike
- ☐ moving bike
- ☐ bike travel in secure crate or basket
- ☐ lawn mower, off
- ☐ moving lawn mower, off
- ☐ lawn mower on at distance
- ☐ vacuum, turned off
- ☐ vacuum turned on, at distance
- ☐ vacuum turned on, closer
- ☐ hair dryer / clippers, turned off
- ☐ hair dryer / clippers, turned on
- ☐ empty bath
- ☐ shallow pre-filled bath
- ☐ gently pour cup of water over puppy's back
- ☐ sound of tap running for bath, without puppy in the bath
- ☐ gentle coat brushing