

# SOCIALISATION PART A

## THE DEFINITION OF SOCIALISATION

“Socialise: to make social; educate to conform to society” Macquarie Dictionary

“Conform: to act in accord or harmony.” Macquarie Dictionary

To socialise your dog is to educate your dog to act in harmony with your lifestyle.

Your lifestyle includes your home, the people and animals that live in it (and whoever comes over to visit) plus the activities undertaken in your home. Your lifestyle also includes all the activities you do outside the home, and all the people and animals you may encounter whilst doing them. Encourage your puppy to explore the world so they either have positive associations or learn to ignore certain things.



## CHECK LIST FOR THE HOME

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A range of noises            | <input type="checkbox"/> Flooring:            | <input type="checkbox"/> Baby family members          | <input type="checkbox"/> Pets/Animals        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Washing Machine/Dryer        | <input type="checkbox"/> Carpet               | <input type="checkbox"/> Children members             | <input type="checkbox"/> Cats                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hair Dryer                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Tiles                | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult members                | <input type="checkbox"/> Dogs                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen Appliances           | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Male visitors                | <input type="checkbox"/> Birds or reptiles   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vacuum Cleaner               | <input type="checkbox"/> Linoleum             | <input type="checkbox"/> Female visitors              | <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbits/Guinea Pigs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sweeping the floor/the broom | <input type="checkbox"/> Rubber               | <input type="checkbox"/> Adolescent visitors          | <input type="checkbox"/> Cows                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mopping the floor/the mop    | <input type="checkbox"/> Rug                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Visiting unfamiliar children | <input type="checkbox"/> Horses              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Radio/television             | <input type="checkbox"/> Stairs               | <input type="checkbox"/> Strangers at the door        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other animals       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Furniture/mirrors            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other floor surfaces | <input type="checkbox"/> Groups of people             | <input type="checkbox"/> Handling/grooming   |

## CHECK LIST FOR YOUR PROPERTY

- |   |  |   |  |                                       |
|---|--|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grass              | <input type="checkbox"/> Pool/Dam/Swimming | <input type="checkbox"/> Shed/Stables       | <input type="checkbox"/> Childrens toys/equipment    | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighbouring |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pathways           | <input type="checkbox"/> Wind              | <input type="checkbox"/> Dark corners       | <input type="checkbox"/> Hose/sprinkler              | <input type="checkbox"/> animals      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garden lights      | <input type="checkbox"/> Rain              | <input type="checkbox"/> Edge cutter off/on | <input type="checkbox"/> Bird baths                  | <input type="checkbox"/> children     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Statues            | <input type="checkbox"/> Decking           | <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn mower off/on  | <input type="checkbox"/> Gates                       | <input type="checkbox"/> adults       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic driving by | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Furniture | <input type="checkbox"/> Tractor off/on     | <input type="checkbox"/> Garage Door closing/opening | <input type="checkbox"/> noises       |

## CHECK LIST FOR OUTSIDE YOUR HOME

- |   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> car rides                    | <input type="checkbox"/> to the dog park       | <input type="checkbox"/> walking about a paddock | <input type="checkbox"/> meeting new dogs             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> riding in other peoples cars | <input type="checkbox"/> a transport container | <input type="checkbox"/> going to a footy game   | <input type="checkbox"/> meeting new animals          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> holidays                     | <input type="checkbox"/> on a boat/train/bus   | <input type="checkbox"/> walking near traffic    | <input type="checkbox"/> meeting/petting by strangers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> random outings               | <input type="checkbox"/> to the vet            | <input type="checkbox"/> going to the cafe       | <input type="checkbox"/> the beach/waves/sand         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bushwalking/hiking           | <input type="checkbox"/> in an elevator        | <input type="checkbox"/> going to new places     | <input type="checkbox"/> a walk around the block      |

# SOCIALISATION PART B

## TIPS

### PUPPY PLAY DATING

Your vet will let you know when it is safe to take your puppy to public places. Until then, you can begin to socialise your dog in the safety of your own home. Do some investigation and find another puppy (not a litter mate) from within your community and have them over for a play date. I recommend that only two puppies play together at any one time. They learn to play dog to dog and in a safe environment under supervision. Having familiar canine friends for your dog is beneficial for social education and enrichment purposes.



### WHEN A PUPPY SHOWS FEAR

When exploring the world and meeting new dogs and species, sometimes a puppy will exhibit signs of fear. It is up to the owner to recognise these signs and remove them from the situation immediately. From here, you can work out the source of conflict and come up with another way to present it to the puppy that is less threatening. If it is reintroduced to the puppy in a more calming way, including using treats and a soothing voice of encouragement you can modify their reaction so they have a positive association with the stimulus.

### HANDLING AND GROOMING

Getting your puppy used to being handled in a similar way that can be expected by a veterinarian can help them feel calm during check ups and examinations. Give your puppy massages and, whilst providing soothing praise and treats, massage around their abdomen area, their paws, legs, ears and lift their lips to check their teeth. It is important they feel comfortable being touched this way. Similarly, introduce grooming (including the sound or use of a hair dryer) and bathing in a calming way if you should require professional grooming services in the future.

