Puppy Socialization Guide

The most critical period for a puppies' socialization is between the ages of 6 weeks and 4 months. Whatever the puppy experiences during those times helps to determine how the puppy will be as an adult. You cannot over socialize a puppy but you can definitely under socialize. This guide gives you a good idea of the amount of "stuff" you want your puppy to experience in a very positive way. The more check marks you have on your socialization guide, the better socialized your puppy will be. Always make sure the experiences are positive and avoid high traffic dog areas, where you don't know if the dogs are vaccinated. Take "cookies" with you where ever you and your puppy go, then ask people to give your puppy cookies or give them yourself when in new situations.

	6-8 weeks	8-9 weeks	9-10 weeks	10-11 weeks	11-12 weeks	12-13 weeks	3-4 months	4-6 months	6-10 months
Young Adult									
Middle aged adults									
Elderly people									
Disabled/odd gaits									
Loud people									
Big looming people									
Uniformed people									
People in hats									
People with beards									
People with glasses									
People with helmets									
People with gloves									
Crutches									
Wheelchairs									
Umbrellas									
Babies									
Toddlers									
Juniors									
Teens									

Adult dogs									
Puppies									
Cats/kittens									
Small pets									
Livestock									
Horses									
Beach/ocean									
Shopping malls									
Friends homes									
Parks/kites/ballgames									
Outside a schoolyard									
Riding in a car									
City streets									
Slippery floors									
Party									
Veterinarian's Office									
Grooming Parlor									
Bicycles									
	6-8 weeks	8-9 weeks	9-10 weeks	10-11 weeks	11-12 weeks	12-13 weeks	3-4 months	4-6 months	6-10 months
Motorcycles									
Buses									
Trucks									
Shopping carts									
Rollerblades/ skateboards									
Elevators									
Automatic sliding doors									
Automatic garage doors									
Vacuums running									
Walking over grates									

Walking through a box									
Hair dryer running									
Hardwood floors									
Linoleum floors									
Bath									
Brushing									
Nail clipping									
Ears checked									
Paws checked									
Belly checked									