

FEAR FREE PUPPY SOCIALIZATION



Making Exposure Positive

Use these bingo squares for ideas on how to socialize your puppy. Socialization and exposure are active processes that are most crucial from three to sixteen weeks of age but should continue well beyond this age range. However, it's important to realize that socialization is not simply about exposure—it's about making it fun and positive from the start.

Think of these experiences as a behavioral investment, like placing pennies in a piggy bank. When done properly, your investment will result in a friendly and outgoing dog. Positive, proactive socialization involves liberal use of food treats (or, for some dogs, interactive play with a toy/attention/petting) to help form positive associations.

Fun Visit at Veterinary Hospital	Have visitors to your home	Take your puppy to a friend's or relative's house	Meet at least 5 people using the 'Go-Say-Hi' protocol	See someone carrying something in hand, such as an umbrella
Play with a minimum of 3 food puzzle toys	Fun Visit at a Grooming Salon or with a Groomer	See children playing from a distance	See and/or meet a person in uniform	Hear construction sounds
Hear and/or see household appliances	See or hear a motorcycle or trolley	Go for a ride in a car	See at least 5 other animals from a distance (duck, geese, birds, squirrels, horses, cattle)	Hear and/or see lawn equipment
See or meet an adult dog who is healthy, friendly, and relaxed around puppies	Walk on 3 different safe and sturdy surfaces such as wood, gravel, sand, metal, concrete, rubber, etc	See and/or meet a person with mobility assistance (wheelchair, walker, crutches)	Hear and/or see a large truck, train, or bus from a distance	Explore at least 5 novel objects using the 'Check-It-Out' protocol
Walk, play, and/or swim in water	Be exposed to a recording of fireworks at a low and controlled volume	See and/or meet a cat who is friendly and relaxed around dogs	Hear children screaming and crying	Be exposed to the sound of wind, rain, and thunder



For more information, please visit www.fearfreehappyhomes.com.