



# **PUPPY**

# **SOCIALISATION**

The first 16 weeks are critical!

Socialisation refers to the learning process that a puppy must undergo to learn key life skills which ensure that they are happy and confident in their environment. We ask a huge amount from our dogs in their role as a companion animal, as not only do they need to understand humans and the human world, they also need to become fluent in the language of dog. It is said that a pup needs to experience a positive stimulus at least 3 times before they can be confident with the situation.

## **PEOPLE AND ANIMALS**

Males and Females - Ages - Different ethnicities- Different attires - Other dogs  
Crowds - Runners - Laughing/shouting/ crying etc - Small animals - Livestock  
Cats

## **NOISES**

Washing machine/Tumble dryer  
Dishwasher - Bin men - Postman -  
Doorbell/Knocking Dogs barking - Sirens  
- Fireworks - Car horns - Traffic - TV  
Radio - Musical instruments - Parties

## **OBJECTS**

Dog toys - Kids toys - umbrellas - Balls -  
Bicycles - Prams - Cars - Trolleys  
Wheelchairs/Mobility aids - Doors  
Hoover - Plastic bags  
Squeaky/rubber/plastic toys

## **ENVIRONMENTS / EXPERIENCES**

Vets - Parks - Shops - Pet shop - Beaches -  
Car rides - Stairs - Coffee shops - Workplace  
Toothbrushing - Checking paws/eyes/ears  
Being brushed/touched/held - Grooming  
Claw clips - Wearing collar/muzzle/harness

Whilst it is important to let our puppies experience all of these stimuli, it is equally as important that we dont overstimulate them and create stress. Overstimulation can look like excitement and barking but it can also look like hiding and being withdrawn. Try exposing your pup to one of these experiences at a time and only move on when you know that they are relaxed in that situation. Puppies can go out and about on walks 1 week after their 1st vaccine at 8 weeks old. However, we would advise to avoid waterways that may harbour rats due to the risk of leptospirosis contamination.

## **BEING ALONE...**

It is really important that puppies learn how to cope on their own when you arent around. Set up scenarios where your puppy is apart from you or other family pets and gradually increase the length of time. Puppies who are constantly with their owners can become socially anxious and will struggle if they require stays at the vets/groomers or kennels.