

Puppy Vaccinations & Safe Socialisation

To give your puppy the best start, it's essential to safeguard their health and well-being. Here's some info to help you safely socialise your puppy until they're fully vaccinated.

Puppy Vaccination Schedule

- **6-8 Weeks:** 1st Vaccination (C3)
- **10-12 Weeks:** 2nd Vaccination Booster (C5)
- **14-16 Weeks:** 3rd and Final Vaccination (C5)

This schedule helps protect your puppy from serious diseases.

Socialisation vs Vaccination

Puppies aged between 4-16 weeks are especially **receptive to new stimuli** and are **naturally inclined to engage** with people, animals, and environments

Lack of exposure or improper socialisation during this crucial period gives a puppy a **significant disadvantage in life** and increases their risk of developing **long-term behavioural problems** well into adulthood.

There is increasing evidence that the risks of improper socialisation are often more severe and significantly outweigh the risks of infectious diseases.

Puppy Vaccinations & Safe Socialisation

Safe Socialisation

The good news is your puppy's paws don't need to touch the ground outside for effective socialisation to happen!

Focus on quality experiences, not just quantity.

Puppies are sensitive to our emotions and perceptive of our actions. They learn by observing us; the way we react to situations teaches our puppies how to respond.

In The Home

- **Sounds:** Expose them to sounds using things in the house (putting away dishes, shutting doors) and mobile apps (free or paid). Start at the lowest volume and increase gradually.
- **Odours:** Let your puppy sniff and explore different scents around the house. Ensure they are safe and non-toxic.
- **Household items:** Allow them to see and investigate items like umbrellas, bikes, gardening tools, exercise equipment, etc.
- **Surfaces:** Encourage them to walk across different and unstable surfaces like cushions, tiles, gravel, bark, rubber mats, wet grass, etc. Do not force them.
- **Appearances:** Play dress up! Wear a variety of hats, glasses, coats, boots, pants, hi-vis, etc. so they become accustomed to different types of people in the world.

Puppy Vaccinations & Safe Socialisation

In The Outside World

- **Car Rides:** Take your pup for short car rides so they get used to the motion. Park various locations and wind down the window so they can take in the sights, sounds, and smells.
- **Vet Visits:** Happy visits to the Vet Clinic help establish a positive association and only take 5-10 min! Call first.
- **Pet-Friendly Stores:** Take short trips to pet stores and places like Bunnings. Use a shopping cart with a soft blanket to safely transport your pup around.
- **Being Safe in Public:** Carry your puppy around and into places that allow dogs (cafes) to let them take in the sights, sounds, and smells of new environments.
- **Other Travel Modes:** Prams, crates, or pet slings are other great ways to get your pup out and about safely.

Social Interactions

- **Guests in the home:** Invite family, friends, and others like delivery drivers or gardeners over for brief and pleasant visits. Keep the environment calm, as socialising with guests requires time and patience. Reward their calm behaviour.
- **Visiting other homes:** Take your pup to visit friends & family to acclimate them to different homes. Ensure they've had enough exercise before to reduce excess energy. Reward your puppy when calm, and keep each visit brief and pleasant.
- **Other dogs & animals:** Safely introduce your pup to healthy, vaccinated, and well-mannered dogs, as well as other household pets. Use tools like leashes and crates for gentle exposure. Keep interactions short and sweet.
- **People & animals in public:** Your pup shouldn't expect to greet everyone; aim for neutrality when out and about. Keep outings short and sweet, and always reward them for choosing to engage with you over the environment.

Socialisation Checklist

Creating Positive Experiences for your Puppy

Socialisation means learning to be part of society. If a puppy has never experienced 'something' in a positive way, before 14-16 weeks of age, then they are likely to become fearful of it as they grow up.

- Start slowly, it's important to not overwhelm your puppy. Introduce only a few new things at a time.
- Make each experience a positive one! The goal is for your puppy to have positive experiences (not neutral or bad).
- Preparation is key. Before you start, ensure your puppy is calm and have plenty of treats available.
- Let them be curious! Allow your puppy the freedom to investigate new things and retreat, at their own pace.
- Respect boundaries. If your puppy is hesitant, try again later! Don't force them into uncomfortable situations.
- Positive reinforcement goes a long way. Encourage your puppy's exploration, let them know how brave they are!
- Remain calm. If your puppy intensely reacts to something, simply and calmly remove them from the situation.

Socialisation Checklist

Creating Positive Experiences for your Puppy

New Experience	1st Exposure		2nd Exposure		3rd Exposure	
	Sure	Unsure	Sure	Unsure	Sure	Unsure
Situations						
Being Picked Up						
Brushed						
Patted						
Nails Clipped (Pretend)						
Teeth Examined						
Ears Examined						
People/Animals	Sure	Unsure	Sure	Unsure	Sure	Unsure
Babies						
Children						
Men						
Women						
Groups of People						
People with Hats						
People with Glasses						
Elderly People						
Men with Facial Hair						
Postmen						
Dogs (All Breeds)						
Cats						
Birds						

Socialisation Checklist

Creating Positive Experiences for your Puppy

New Experience	1st Exposure		2nd Exposure		3rd Exposure	
	Sure	Unsure	Sure	Unsure	Sure	Unsure
Objects						
Trolleys/Prams						
Cars						
Motorcycles						
Buses/Trucks						
Bicycles						
Wheelie Bin/Wheelbarrow						
Lawn Mower						
Vacuum Cleaner						
Hair Dryer						
Broom/Mop						
Places	Sure	Unsure	Sure	Unsure	Sure	Unsure
Beach						
Shops						
Vet Clinic						
Parks						
Enclosed Spaces/Crates						
Schools						
Local Streets						
Main Roads						
In The Car						

Socialisation Checklist

Creating Positive Experiences for your Puppy

New Experience	1st Exposure		2nd Exposure		3rd Exposure	
	Sure	Unsure	Sure	Unsure	Sure	Unsure
Sounds						
Thunderstorms						
Garbage Trucks						
Kids Playing						
Babies Crying						
Sirens						
Fireworks						
Doorbells						
Skateboards						
Dogs Barking						
Planes						
Kitchen Noises						
Surfaces						
Slippery						
Rough						
Carpet						
Tiles						
Unstable						
Puddles						
Roads						
Grass (wet & dry)						