



## Puppy Socialization

Important Note: Please ask your veterinarian first to see if there are any restrictions on what your puppy should be exposed to.

You may be planning to take your puppy to a class to learn basic socialization and obedience skills. That is a great idea. But beyond the class, your puppy should be exposed to as many different experiences as possible (before the age of 12 weeks) to ensure that they will grow up to be a dog that takes things in stride. Create situations where your puppy can be exposed to new things in a safe, calm, and controlled manner. The list of things you might expose your puppy to is long; the following are just a few examples.

- People: Different ages, sizes, genders, and colors. Also people wearing or using hats, glasses, uniforms, canes, walkers, and wheelchairs.
- Animals: One or two other calm & friendly dogs, cats, horses
- Stationary Objects: Toys, mirrors, cardboard boxes
- Moving Objects: Vacuum cleaners, gates, bicycles, skateboards
- Walking Surfaces: Grass, asphalt, concrete, stairs
- Sounds: Doorbells, alarms, ringing telephones, crying babies
- Places: Vet's office, places where children play (park or school ground), car rides
- Handling: Pet your puppy, hold him/her in your lap, touch the insides of the ears and mouth
- Grooming: Brushing, bathing, ear cleaning, nail clipping or grinding
- Alone Time: Spending quiet time in their crate

If you have any questions about your new puppy, please do not hesitate to ask us!

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The Austin Dog Alliance, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, provides the following programs:

- Rescue: Our foster parents provide a nurturing home environment for dogs.
- Youth Outreach: Dog-related educational programs for area schools and youth groups.
- Deaf Community: Uniquely tailored youth and adult dog training taught in sign language.
- Dog Training: We provide a wide variety of fun and educational dog training classes.
- Pet Therapy: We provide seminars, classes, evaluations, placement, and support to therapy teams in local schools, hospitals, and nursing homes.

