

## Socialisation Checklist

Children	Create a quiet area as a bolt hole where your puppy can get away if needed. Accustom your puppy to being handled by your children and other children, but under supervision at all times. Remember your puppy is not a toy. Try to meet babies and toddlers who wobble and scream which may unsettle many dogs. If you don't have friends with suitable children, try and arrange to be near a school at home time - you will not be short of new friends to make a fuss of your puppy! Never overwhelm your puppy. Allow him/her to go to the children not the other way round.
Feeding	Accustom your puppy to you and other people adding to his bowl whilst he is eating. This will prevent possessiveness and aggression over food later.
Grooming	Groom your puppy every day, even smooth or wirehaired breeds that may not seem to need it. Grooming gets your puppy used to being thoroughly handled.
Veterinary Examination	Examine your puppy's ears, teeth, eyes, lift up feet and check paws, check under the tail every day. Feel him gently all over. Try to get as many people to do this and come in to see our nurses regularly so your puppy gets used to coming to the surgery for an examination and a treat.
Visitors	Try and encourage lots of visitors to the house. This helps with socialisation and discourages territorial behaviour developing. Visitors should be advised to ignore the puppy until he calms down then give your puppy a fuss. Do issue them with treats to give him when he sits nicely or is not jumping up.
Postman, milkman etc	Try to get your puppy to meet as many people in uniform as possible, holding him in your arms initially. If your puppy gets to know and like them, and learns that they will not run away when he barks after delivering the post or milk, he is far less likely to show territorial aggression or excessive barking when older.
Domestic sights and sounds	Expose your puppy to domestic stimuli such as the vacuum cleaner, spin dryer etc. Don't make an issue of them.
Cats	If you have a cat, supervise them together initially. Make sure the cat always can retreat to a safe haven away from the puppy, but also be aware that the cat has claws and teeth and will not be afraid to use them!
Older dog in the home	If you already have an older dog, introduce your puppy in the garden. Try to let them sort themselves out without too much intervention from yourself.
Out and about	Try to introduce your puppy to as many different places, sights, sounds and experiences as possible. Start as soon as you get your puppy by carrying him around in your arms before being fully vaccinated. If you have a large puppy, find somewhere to sit with him on your lap. Start in quieter places and gradually build up to noisier areas. The more encounters experienced at an early age, the less chance of him becoming a barky dog. Using a scary sounds CD available from your vet can help your puppy get used to new noises such as firework bangs, juggernauts, trains and crow scarers.