

Why is it Important to Socialise My Dog?

All dogs are born afraid of almost everything in our modern world! Early socialisation removes this fear. Without proper socialisation this fear will remain, giving you a nervous and sometimes overactive dog.

When we refer to ‘socialisation’ we are saying that ALL dogs need to be exposed to as many and varied experiences as possible in a positive manner while they are young. For example, meeting and playing with other dogs in a safe and controlled environment such as puppy school.

NOTE: Dogs that live with another dog will not automatically be relaxed around all other dogs.

It is definitely NOT acceptable to keep your puppy isolated until they are 12-16 weeks old. If you do isolate your pup during this time you will almost certainly end up with a timid, fearful and over reactive dog in certain situations. You should however be watchful of where you take your dog for health reasons, but all dogs, regardless of breed or size, need socialisation at a young age to ensure normal development and behavior.

A well structured socialisation program is needed to integrate your dog into society in a safe and responsible manner. We start this process at Pure Paws Puppy Training but you need to continue this at home. The following are some ways to do this and some environments your puppy really should have exposure to;

Traffic movement and noise ie cars, motorbikes
Trips in the car
People of all ages, in all types of clothes ie hats, sunglasses etc
Skateboards, bikes, scooters
Dogs, cats and other animals
Shopping trolleys and wheelchairs
Prams and strollers
Lawnmowers, whipper snippers and other machinery
Vacuum cleaners, mops and brooms
Water—lakes, creeks and beach

When socializing your dog to the above, all you need to do is take your dog into the environment and let them explore and investigate. Just being there and calmly experiencing it will remove the fear for life.

Don't forget, look at the world from your pups eyes. Don't assume your dog will automatically cope with new experiences because unless they have been socialised they will almost certainly overreact!

Proper socialisation is not important,
IT IS CRITICAL
in the development of your puppy.