

Socialising checklist

To socialise a dog, expose them to a trigger like the ones listed below and teach them what you would like them to do when they encounter it the next time.

The next time they encounter the same trigger or something similar, mark and reward the dog for doing what you taught them to do the first time.

For example, when encountering the postman you can teach your dog to sit quietly and observe them or simply to ignore them, and go sniff in the opposite direction. Every time they see the postman, reward the dog for sitting and watching them or ignoring them to sniff something else.

Reward curiosity and calm behaviour towards new and unusual objects, and reward and praise your dog to build a positive association.

If your dog shows fear or barks and growls DO NOT SHOUT OR PUNISH THEM, this will make it worse.

Simply increase the distance, and when they are far away to calm down, reward them for observing the trigger and slowly go closer to the stimulus at your dog's pace. You can also use shaping, desensitization and counterconditioning to help your dog. You Do not increase fear by rewarding your dog.

Patience is the key. 5 minutes extra in the start will save you hours of coaxing in the future.

People

- ☐ All genders
- ☐ All ages (babies, toddlers, kids, teenagers, adults, elderly)
- ☐ Wearing fluoro / uniforms / police / firemen / large overcoats
- ☐ Walking, running, sitting, sleeping
- ☐ Dressed in hats and costumes, with sunnies, walking canes and umbrellas
- ☐ Different ethnicities
- ☐ Beards / bald
- ☐ Loudly talking laughing shouting
- ☐ People Playing
- ☐ People who move unusually as if old or injured. Or people moving with mobility aids

Animals

- ☐ Dogs of all ages (Puppy adolescents, adults, elderly)
- ☐ Dogs of all sizes (Toy dogs, medium, large, giant breeds)
- ☐ Males, Females.
- ☐ Birds
- ☐ Rabbits
- ☐ Rodents / guinea pigs.
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Horses / cows / deer / kangaroos / sheep / goats/ pigs.

Noises

- ☐ Door bell / knocking / door slams / door clicks.
- ☐ Musical instruments
- ☐ Other dogs barking
- ☐ Squeaking toys
- ☐ Paper crinkle
- ☐ Metal gate clicks and slams
- ☐ Sirens
- ☐ Fireworks / thunder / loud bangs
- ☐ Car horns
- ☐ Rain / storm / strong wind
- ☐ Whistles, wind chimes
- ☐ TV / radio / music
- ☐ Car back fire / loud exhausts / screeching tires / revving engines
- ☐ Trucks / trains / airplanes
- ☐ Bicycle bells
- ☐ Motorcycles
- ☐ Household items such as vacuum cleaner / lawn mower / microwave / dishwasher / fridge compressor / fans / AC / Hair dryers
- ☐ Garbage truck
- ☐ Courier deliveries
- ☐ Parties / at home and next door
- ☐ People and animals / noises on the other side of the fence.
- ☐ Road crossing noises

Toys

- ☐ Hard
- ☐ Soft
- ☐ Stringy
- ☐ Chewy
- ☐ Plastic
- ☐ Rubber
- ☐ Fabric

Environments

- ☐ Water
- ☐ Sand
- ☐ Beach / river / lakes / hills
- ☐ Grass fake & real
- ☐ Tile / concrete / bitumen / carpet / laminate / wood / gravel / mud / puddles
- ☐ Parks / playgrounds
- ☐ Vets
- ☐ Shops (Bunnings + [More](#))
- ☐ Dog cafes / coffee shops / indoor & outdoor venues

- ☐ Schools
- ☐ Pet shops
- ☐ Cars
- ☐ Stairs / lifts (Not Escalators)
- ☐ Tunnels
- ☐ Foot bridges
- ☐ Busy roads
- ☐ Boats / unsteady surfaces

Handling

- ☐ Being touched all over (ears, feet, tail, genitals, anus, muzzle, gums, thigh, leg pits, paws)
- ☐ Collar grabs / lead clicks
- ☐ Being tied up
- ☐ Being groomed (different brushes)
- ☐ Bath time
- ☐ Clipping nails / checking paws / cleaning eyes & ears
- ☐ Being dried with a towel and hair dryer
- ☐ Being bandaged
- ☐ Being restrained
- ☐ Lying down with a human examining
- ☐ Teeth brushing / checking
- ☐ Being restrained in a collar / harness / slip lead

Objects

- ☐ Shoes / socks
- ☐ Umbrellas / rain coats / jackets
- ☐ Balloons / bubbles
- ☐ Bicycles / skateboards / scooters / segways / shopping trolleys
- ☐ Drones / RC cars
- ☐ Flags / sprinklers / garden hoses
- ☐ Prams / walkers / mobility scooters / wheelchairs / walking canes
- ☐ Basketballs / footballs / footy balls / tennis balls* / cricket balls* / ping pong balls* / small bouncy balls. (*do not allow mouthing or swallowing can cause choking)
- ☐ Garage doors

Notes

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