



PUPPY HABITUATION/SOCIALISATION SCHEDULE

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Print this out and put it on the fridge.

Each encounter your puppy has should be a positive experience. We do not want any bad experiences. Please watch how your puppy reacts to each situation. We are going to use treats to show your dog that these novel situations have a positive outcome.

If your dog barks, or lunges, they are overwhelmed. If they do not take treats they are probably feeling uneasy. Take your dog away from the object and work at the distance that is comfortable for your dog. Gradually build up his proximity, over time, with food.

NEVER scold, correct, or shout at him when he is expressing pure fear (or reacting). He will think you are agreeing with the fear and it will build a bad experience (Dogs learn by association) for him in the future and this takes a great deal of time to undo.

Never adopt the attitude that “he knows” or “he is just doing it to show me up” Also, using the word “NO” which is used to scold your dog (probably) is a bad association building approach.

HE (or SHE) is a dog, does not speak English (or any other human language) so let’s listen to him and give him the best start possible with lots of new things.. We have to show him things are good!! We can even make it a great game to spot how many novel objects you can find on a walk!

ALWAYS counter condition him to the presence of objects by pairing the experience with something beautiful like cheese, or ham or something yummy!!

Scoring your puppies response to a Person, Object or, Handling habituation/socialization response:

Grade your puppies response from 1-10 to monitor your progress. Your low scores will give you an indication of the work you need to do with the puppy.

1 = Biting, snapping, showing over arousal and trying to get at object to get it away from the puppy (this is pure fear and needs low level exposure over a period of time. Please do not give up)

2 = Growling at object or barking, high tail, hackles up! This is a sign of arousal

3 = Stiffening and staring- Frozen

4= Avoidance any attempt to get away from the object,

5= Slight hesitation to approach and may even give an initial bark to test the water (perhaps you might want to touch the object and make positive moves (not forcing dog forward and only if it is safe to do so) and show him that it is not frightening

6= Stands, but is slightly crouched, with tail tucked under (never force him to go forward always let him do this in his own time)

7= Creeps forward, ears are back but he is hesitant and interested at the same time. You need to keep



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this positive, do not make a big deal out of this behavior and try and show him that nice things happen in the presence of this novel object.

8= Spots object, turns his head slightly away, licks his lips, yawns, ground sniffs, paws the ground. These are all displacement activities and signals that he is uncomfortable, a good time to counter-condition him to the presence of the object

9= He is calm, relaxed, interested and explores the object, is happy to take food and is interested in it, he is playful, easy to redirect

10= All of the above, but he may not need food, he is not reacting at all, but is happy to be around it, has not shown any signs of worry or anxiety.

Type of Habituation & Specific Socialisation	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
Handling Checking the ears							
Examining mouth and gums (capillary refill time)							
Opening the eyelids checking the eyes							
Squeezing the feet							
Holding and trimming nails							
Pinching skin							
Poking the skin with a pen (gently)							
Touching and squeezing the nose							
Poking the nose with a pen (gently)							
Holding him in your lap							
Holding puppy on its back while giving a belly rub							
Hugging your puppy							
Pulling the collar (make this a game with treats)							
Grabbing puppy by leg or other part							
Wiping body with a towel							
Putting on a head halter							
Putting on a harness							
Wearing a cone of shame :-)							
Wearing a muzzle (this is a great game put treats in muzzle)							
Wearing a coat, jacket or otherwise							
Wearing a bandage (good practice for future bandaging attempts)							
Type of Habituation & Specific Socialisation	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
Unfamiliar People Women							
People varying ethnic origins							
Tall men and women							
Men with deep voices							
Men with beards							
Elderly							
People wearing hats, helmets							



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People wearing different types of boots							
People wearing hooded tops							
People wearing backpacks							
People wearing sunglasses							
People with crutches, canes, walking sticks, frames etc							
Teenagers							
Children standing still and playing							
Toddlers in all different settings and making noises							
Babies (crawling)							
People jogging, running wearing various attire							
People sitting on the side walk (and or homeless people)							
Unfamiliar Dogs and those who play well							
A dog who is well balanced but does not want a puppy in his space							
With puppies who play well (remember time outs for over arousal)							
Type of Habituation & Specific Socialisation	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
Other species, cats, hamsters, rabbits (perhaps in a pet shop)							
Horses and livestock							
New surfaces, carpet, rugs, different floors							
Slippery floors such as hardwood, linoleum or marble							
Man-Hole covers							
Scales (at vets)							
Clicker sound							
Exercise balls							
See-Saw (children's play ground)							
Stairs							
Wet grass							
Mud							
Ice, frost, snow							
Music							
Whistle							
Scary sounds Thunder							
Fireworks							
Babies and young children							
Alarms & Sirens							
Dogs barking							



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Doorbell ringing							
Traffic lights (and traffic jams)							
Road works traffic cones, tape, drilling etc							
Vacuum cleaner (use counter-conditioning)							
Type of Habituation & Specific Socialisation	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
Objects with wheels Skateboards							
Rollerblades							
Rubbish bins outside							
Shopping Trolley							
Push Chairs							
Wheel chairs							
Bikes							
Cars							
Buses							
Motorcycles							
Pots, pans, plates							
Blankets, rugs, door-mats being shaken							
Brooms							
Balloons							
Umbrellas							
Things blowing in the wind eg plastic bag, flags							
Road signs							
Rubbish bins in the house							
Rubbish bins outside							
Bin liners, full and empty							
Metal pots, pans or ornaments							
Surfaces, such as concrete, tile, brick, shiny, smooth and incline							
Reflections in mirrors windows etc							
Pens, pencils and biro's							
Type of Habituation & Specific Socialisation	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
Residentially populated neighborhood							
Residential city streets							
High traffic city street							
Lorries							
Shopping centre car park							
Inside different buildings							
Dog-friendly event eg a fete, concert, game fair							
Public house :-)							

