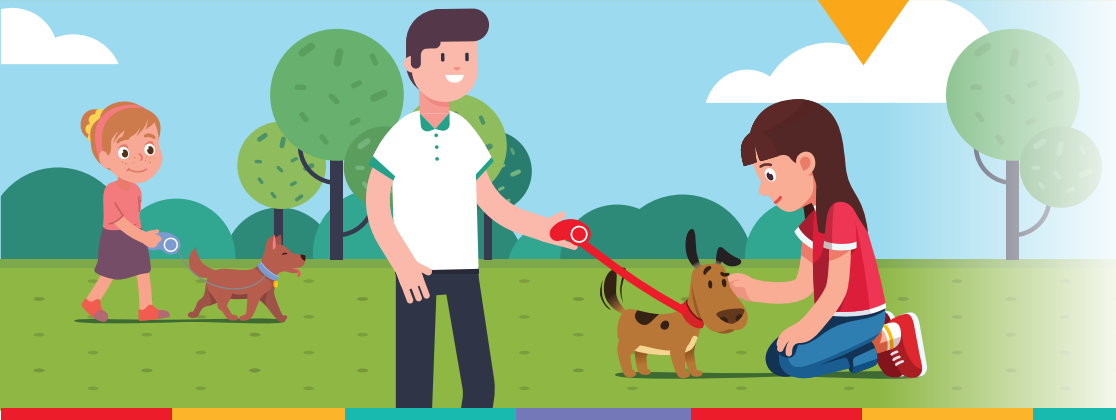




Puppy Socialization: Your Key to a Loving, Lasting Bond

Did you know that puppies are information sponges?
What they learn before 3 months of age impacts their behaviour for the rest of their lives.
Take advantage of this critical window and help them become a well-behaved family member with puppy socialization!

WHAT is puppy socialization?



It is **early exposure** to everything puppies may encounter in life.

WHY should I socialize my puppy?

To ensure the development of normal dog behaviours and prevent future behavioural issues in your puppy, such as:

Anxiety



Aggression towards people or other pets



Fear of noises



Sadly, behavioural problems are the greatest threat to the loving bond between people and their dogs. They are also the #1 cause of relinquishment to animal shelters.

WHEN should I socialize my puppy?

The prime socialization time begins at 3 weeks, and continues until 3 months of age.



WHERE should I socialize my puppy?

Here are some places, situations and surfaces you should expose your puppy to:

- Different walking surfaces
- Crowds
- Various weather conditions



- Car travel
- Veterinary clinics
- City and rural areas

Your puppy will also need to get used to a variety of noises. Expose them to sounds such as:

- Thunder
- Fireworks
- Fire alarms
- Lawnmowers
- Vacuum cleaners
- Blenders



Remember to also schedule some **"alone time"** so that your puppy learns how to be comfortable when you're not at home.

WHO should I introduce my puppy to?

Introduce your puppy to as many people and animals as safely possible. These may include:

- People of different ethnicities, genders, and heights
- Children
- People wearing different clothing
- Dogs, cats, rabbits, etc.



Above all, SOCIALIZE SAFELY and SLOWLY



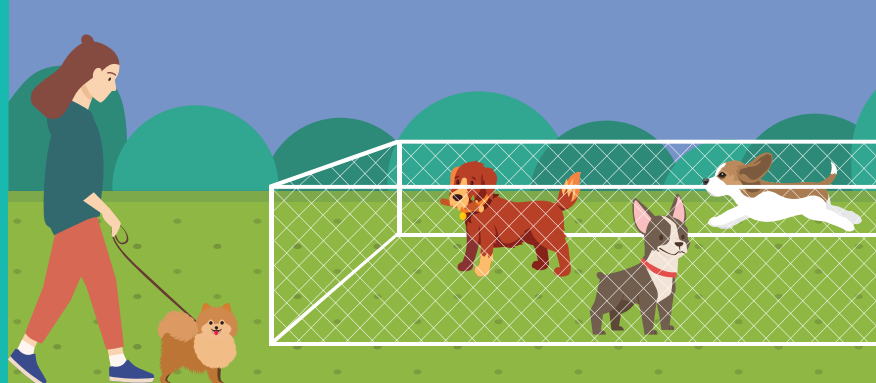
Wait at least **1 week** after the first vaccination before socializing outside of the home.



Don't overwhelm your puppy! Every experience should be **positive** and **fun**. Make sure your pup is feeling relaxed and happy before introducing new experiences.



Play with only well-behaved, healthy and **vaccinated** dogs.



Avoid unfamiliar dogs and off-leash parks.



Ask your veterinary clinic for a list of puppy classes in your area. They are a great way to safely expose your puppy to new situations while also teaching them good behaviour.

Remember, puppy socialization should be fun for both you and your puppy.

Plenty of praise, cuddles, treats and toys will help your pup learn good behaviour and create a special lifelong bond.

Ask your veterinary professional for more information on how you can safely and effectively help your puppy grow into a happy and well-behaved family member.

This educational tool is made possible through the support of

