

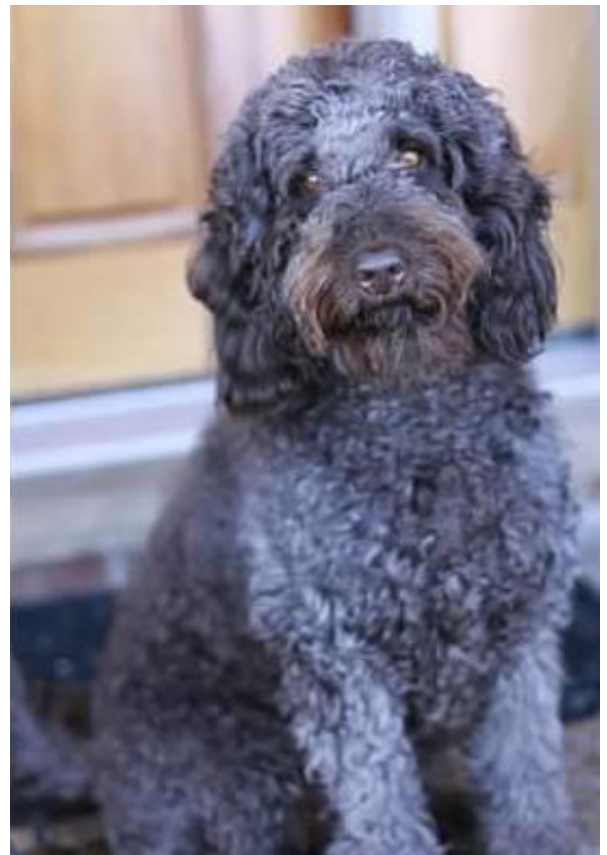


**Socialization is the key to a well-rounded puppy.
The first 16 weeks is the critical socialization period of a dog's life.**

RULES OF SOCIALIZATION:

- **Make it fun for your puppy!**
- **Don't force your puppy to confront their fears as this can backfire and create an aggressive/fearful response.**
- **Go at your puppy's pace. Let them initiate each approach to something new and allow them to retreat when they need to feel safe.**
- **Your puppy may be socialized to your household but you need to continue to expose them to new things, places, and contexts.**
- **Pair treats with exposures to make good associations if necessary and remember that socialization is time-sensitive.**

**Below is our recommended
Socialization Checklist.**



Meeting People:

- Males & Females
- different ethnicities
- different sizes
- different personalities
- All ages - infants, toddlers, kids, teenagers, adults, elderly
- Crowds
- People sounds – laughing, crying, singing, talking loudly, shouting, arguing, kids playing
- People with: wheel chairs, crutches, canes
- Dressed in a variety of attire – coats, hats, glasses, sunglasses, costumes

Environments:

- Car Rides
- Stairs
- Parks
- Houses
- Veterinarians
- Shops where dogs are permitted
- Pet shop
- Schools
- Playgrounds
- Beaches
- Railway Crossings
- Beach & swimming pools
- Coffee Shop
- Your workplace
- Kids play-ground
- Sporting events
- Different surfaces - tile, wood, grass, concrete, sand, carpet, gravel, puddles, mud
- Different heights - walking on raised surfaces,
- Going into tunnels
- Bridges and foot bridges
- Bus stops
- Surfaces – carpet, wood, tile, cement, asphalt, sand, grass

Animals:

- Dogs – different breeds, smaller dogs, bigger dogs, older dogs, puppies, males, females, smooth coats, shaggy coats
- Cats & Kittens
- Rabbits
- Horses
- Cows
- Rabbits
- Sheep & Goats
- Chicken & Ducks & Birds

Objects:

- Trucks
- Furniture
- Flowers
- Sprinklers
- Mirrors
- Garage doors
- Plastic bags
- Shopping Cart
- Brooms
- Flags
- Dog toys
- Kids toys
- Umbrellas
- Balloons
- Basket Balls
- Skate Boards
- Bicycles
- Rollerblades
- Strollers
- Cars

Toys:

- Squeaky
- Plastic
- Rubber
- Fabric
- Light up

Eating Bowls:

- Plastic
- Metal
- Ceramic
- Paper
- Glass

Noises:

- Radio & Television
- Vacuum Cleaner
- Microwave
- Washing Machine
- Dishwasher
- Fan
- Hair dryer
- Door bells
- Door Knocking
- Barking dogs
- Rain, Wind & Thunderstorms
- School Bus
- Fireworks
- Lawn mower
- Leaf blower
- Sirens
- Car horns
- Busy Traffic
- Garbage truck
- Motorbikes
- Trucks
- Trains
- Loud cars and traffic
- Parties, fairs, festivals
- Musical Instruments
- Shopping Centers

Experiences:

- Being touched - held, touching paws, muzzle, ears, tale, rear legs
- Wearing a collar
- Walking on a leash
- Being brushed
- Bathing
- Being toweled off
- Teeth checking & brushing
- Being hugged & kissed
- Checking between paws
- Toenail clipping
- Clean their ears
- Cleaning their eyes
- Being bandaged
- Doggie Daycare
- Agility equipment
- Boats & Watercrafts



Remember:

- Early socialization experiences are crucial for helping puppies become confident, relaxed adults
- Make it a fun positive experience
- Take baby steps...don't do too much too fast
- Involve the whole family
- Attend puppy classes if possible