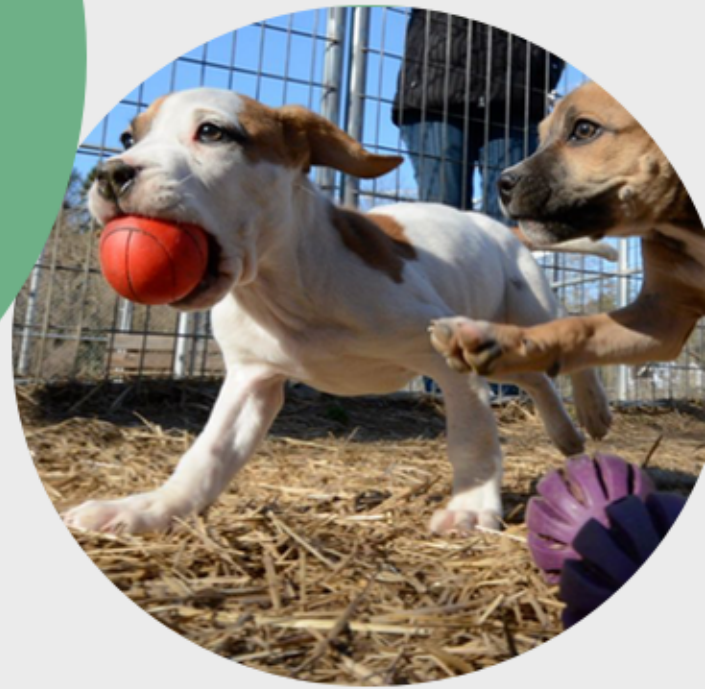


PROVIDENCE

ANIMAL CENTER

PUPPY SOCIALIZATION WEEK ONE



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**Welcome to our
Puppy Socialization Class**

Thank you for enrolling your puppy in this class. It is a critical first step in your puppy's social development. We are providing your puppy with a safe environment where they will have positive experiences through class activities with their parent as well as their interactions with other puppies and humans. They will interact with various new environmental elements such as new objects, surfaces and noises. This will help to build a strong foundation of life skills and experiences.

Why Socialize?

- Your puppy is at a critical stage of development. They will learn about the world around them and how to navigate. Everything is new and must be positive
- Carefully putting them in situations using positive experiences and interactions will help them build resiliency, trust, and confidence.
- Resiliency helps them build lifelong skills to cope with new experiences.
- Healthy positive play helps them express themselves and learn those coping skills
- They will learn what works and what doesn't work
- Interact with new people
- They are allowed to make choices and we monitor their body language so we can make sure that they are ok with what is happening to them and around them

**Some puppies are super social players, some are shy, some are overwhelmed, some are afraid, some are over-zealous and excited. We see the individual and help them feel successful



Why Socialize? Cont.

- It is critical to observe your puppy and go at their pace
- All interactions must be positive. They will go through fear periods and it is our job to not reinforce fears and help them learn to cope and work through it
- We want to build resiliency
- Use treats to reward good behaviour and praise for being brave
- Touching your puppy- be gentle, reward, go at their pace, start out slow (3 secs) then stop and reward. Build on this. Make it fun for them so they associate touch means good things
- Always reward and praise your puppy for coming to you no matter what. No matter what naughty thing you just saw them do – anytime they come to you it must be positive. This will ensure that when you want them to come to you (recall) they will because it was always positive and good things happened.

PRO TIPS

Never yell or scold your puppy. They are learning. Yelling no or scolding does not teach them what you want. They do not know what you want.

ALWAYS associate your puppy's name with something good. Calling them to you, saying their name must always be followed by good stuff and not negative. They need to learn that they are good.

The goal of socialization is to have a well-rounded, “optimistic” adult dog, who doesn't worry or feel anxious when coming across something new. An optimistic dog sees something they haven't seen before and they are curious as opposed to fearful. Therefore, we want our puppies to be comfortably introduced to new conditions and new situations.

Reading Body Language



Since they don't wear a mood ring, here are some common signs that you can look for to interpret if they're feeling happy, sad, anxious, or excited.

Looking away, sniffing, scratching, lying down, or other avoidance behaviours may also indicate that the play session is over.

A fearful dog may lean away, lean back, tremble, crouch, lower his body or head, or roll onto his side or back. Often, his eyes will often be fully open with large pupils, his forehead will be wrinkled, and his tail will be lowered or tucked.

An extremely fearful dog may freeze completely or frantically try to escape, and he may urinate or defecate when approached.

A dog displaying aggressive body language will look large, standing with his head raised above his shoulders. His body will be tense, with weight either centered or over all four feet or leaning slightly forward onto the front legs. A dog displaying aggressive behaviour may also have a wrinkled muzzle, a short lip, and a hard eye.

DOGGIE LANGUAGE

starring Boogie the Boston Terrier



Dealing with Common Puppy Behaviors

Find constructive, positive outlets for them instead of worrying about how to correct what you do not like. They are puppies. They know no better.

Provide plenty of appropriate chewing material for them....from DIY to store bought items and praise them when they are chewing those items. See examples below.

Jumping nipping clothes. This is play for a puppy but can be annoying for us, or become even more annoying as they get bigger.

Check out KikoPup - STOP puppy BITING clothes on YouTube.

Start learning some basics with your young puppy. Build enrichment and Separation Training into your daily routine.



Balancing mental and physical activity is very important for your puppy to learn and to give you some human time.

- Chewing Options**
- Paper towel and TP rolls (Brown only)
 - Cardboard boxes
 - Frozen treats/Pupsicles
 - Bully Stick (with a Bully Buddy for safety)
 - Nylabone
 - Benebone
 - Kong toys
 - West Paw Toys

Avoiding Socialization Issues with Puppies

Socialization can be challenging. You have heard that you need to “socialize your puppy”. You may believe you need to expose your puppy to lots of people, or dogs, and different situations. This is only half right. You do want to introduce your puppy to different situations, but at a level and pace that keeps your pup comfortable. You want your puppy to think “Wow, that was such a fun party, loved meeting those people”, rather than “Phew, glad that’s over, that was kind of scary”. Letting your puppy choose the interaction is a really good way to determine their comfort level.

Getting Started:

- Add something new to the room before you let your puppy in and let your puppy explore at their own pace. No need to encourage, lure, or bring your puppy to the item.

Examples:

- Have an umbrella open in the room and let your pup check it out.
- Pull out a seasonal decorative item and let your puppy see it.
- A skateboard or other item that moves when your puppy touches it.

Remember, you don't want to scare your puppy; you want it to be at a level where they feel curious. Do not bring the item to your pup, let your puppy choose to go to it.



PRO TIPS

- Make new experiences FUN
- Protect from negative experiences
- Never force your puppy to approach something scary

Avoiding Socialization Issues with Puppies Cont.

Put a remote control toy in a room

- At first have it be still. When the puppy is further away you can turn it on and have it move a little, gradually increasing speed.
- If it makes a noise as it moves around and that is concerning to your puppy, hold it still at a distance with the sound on. Once he or she is comfortable with that, move it a little.
- You are gradually exposing your puppy to the new item, at a level where your puppy feels comfortable. That is key!

Have your puppy experience different surfaces

- carpets, hardwood floor, grass, gravel, mulch, pavement, sand are some examples.

Rearrange the room

While your pup is out of the room, rearrange the furniture, change location of pillows etc. and let the pup back in. The idea is to teach the puppy that change is not a problem.



PRO TIPS

Don't forget about the regular things in your puppy's life, such as running vacuum, the doorbell ringing, sounds from the TV, etc.

You tube various sounds, such as a lawn mower, dogs barking, a garbage truck, etc., so that your puppy can get used to hearing those sounds!

Socializing on Walks



Outdoors isn't off limits, so letting your puppy out on leash to explore is terrific.

Think of your walks as “sniffari’s” — use them as an opportunity for you and your pup to stretch your legs, get some fresh air, and just have fun taking in your surroundings! Not every walk has to be for training a proper heel position.

Bonus

Your pup can experience seeing other dogs walking by, bikes, cars, and trucks from a distance!

Make sure to have lots of treats for offering rewards and if something scary comes up you can make it a positive experience!

QUESTIONS?

Don't feel overwhelmed. We're here to help! Our staff and volunteers are available to answer your questions and direct you to valuable resources for almost any puppy dilemma you may encounter!

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