



Socialization Hit List

<u>Category</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Positive</u>
Women	Meets in corridor	Hand-Fed by
Men	Visit house	Hand-Fed by
Teenagers	Sees on street	Hand-Fed by
Children	Patted by in park	Hand-Fed by
Toddlers	Visit house	Hand-Fed by (assisted)
Babies	Sees one on street	Rewarded when sniffs
Hats	Sees on pedestrians	Hand-Fed by
Peculiar Gaits	Sees drunks in park	Hand-Fed by clowns
All Races	Sees occasionally	Hand-Fed by
Crowds	Attends event	Liver given by people
Uniforms	Meets mailman	Hand-Fed by
Bikes	Sees on street	Treated by owner
Traffic	Walks near	Walks near to fun place
Car-Rides	Around block	To fun place
Cats/Livestock	Sees and sniffs	Treats from owner
Other Dogs	Meets & greets	Off-leash play

The above diagram is from “The Culture Clash” by Jean Donaldson.
(We highly recommend this book!)

This list is not exhaustive. *You cannot overdue socialization.* The payoff is enormous.

Defining “Socialization” here is very important. Most pet owners feel that proper socialization is “exposing the dog to new people and situations.” While this is partially correct, the true definition of socialization is “exposure to a variety of situations, people and animals, ensuring that each experience is positive and pleasant and the dog’s reaction is non-fearful.” So what does socialization entail? It is structured interaction that includes, but is certainly not limited to: Exposing a new puppy to as many sounds, sights, smells, people, animals and locations as possible, beginning as soon as the dog arrives in his new home. It includes taking your dog to the vet, to the park, to the pet store, to the school yard (when children are playing), on public transit, in the car, in an elevator, on an escalator, on busy streets, outside when the garbage truck goes by, near bicycles and skateboards, around people of all shapes, sizes, colors, ages, and abilities – the list goes on. Keep in mind, the more new things a puppy sees in his early days, the easier it will be for them to adjust to new things as they age.