

Puppy Socialisation BINGO



How to play:

Cross off the numbers as you complete the corresponding socialisation task on the other side. When you cross off an entire row, column, or diagonal line, you can claim 'BINGO!'. Your prize for reaching bingo is a \$50 voucher towards Kindred Paws Animal Training's 'Canine Life Skills' group class. Get in contact via the website (www.kindredpaws.com.au) to claim.

To get the most out of your puppy training, complete as many as you can before your dog is 20 weeks old. Remember that socialisation isn't about just exposure, but positive exposure. Adjust the training to suit your puppy's individual needs. Multiple exposures are usually needed to build your puppy's confidence with a situation. Lastly, remember to be considerate of where is safe for your puppy to go if they are not fully vaccinated.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56
57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64

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Cross off the numbers when your puppy has a **calm, confident, and positive** exposure or experience. If you have trouble or your puppy is fearful, feel free to reach out for help and advice.

1. Bikes
2. Prams
3. Wheelie bin
4. Dogs barking
5. People coming to the front door
6. Traffic
7. Dog playing or running at the park
8. Shopping Trolley
9. Fireworks
10. Skateboard
11. Lawnmower
12. Examining ears
13. Visiting the groomer
14. Boats or jetskis
15. Wheelchairs
16. Umbrellas
17. A sports game
18. People in helmets
19. Walking sticks and aids
20. Buses
21. Thunderstorms
22. Vacuum cleaner
23. Noise from a blender
24. People running past
25. Dogs walking past
26. Mop
27. Mat training at a cafe
28. Broom
29. Construction workers
30. Sirens
31. Hair dryer
32. Visiting the pet shop
33. Going to the Beach
34. Children under 2 years old
35. Nail clippers
36. Greeting dogs
37. Hair brush
38. Planes or helicopters
39. Examining teeth
40. Visiting the vet
41. Horses
42. Kids playing in a playground
43. Going into the CBD
44. Saying hello to stranger
45. Calmly ignoring a stranger
46. Bathtubs
47. The garden hose
48. Automatic doors
49. Car trips
50. Using stairs
51. Cattle or livestock
52. Visiting a park
53. Alarms
54. Kids crying
55. Doorbells
56. Crates
57. Visiting a friends house
58. Ignoring birds
59. Play with another dog
60. Visit Bunnings or similar
61. People in costume
62. Noise of power tools
63. Delivery workers
64. Visit a walking track

Puppy Socialisation Tips



Socialising a puppy is a crucial aspect of their development that sets the foundation for a well-adjusted and confident adult dog. Between the age of 8 to 16 weeks is the ideal time to expose them to various people, animals, environments, and experiences, however, socialisation should continue past this.

When socialising a puppy, we want to avoid negative situations, as well as over-stimulating situations that may lead to sensitivity to triggers in the future. For example, taking your dog to the dog park often involves your puppy either being played with too rough, or being overexcited by other dogs. It is better to set up a meeting with other dogs that are trustworthy, through a fence, or do a short greeting on lead when you first introduce two dogs. This way we can better control the outcome and ensure your puppy has a positive experience with another dog.

I like to split socialisation with other dogs into three categories; ignoring other dogs, saying hello to other dogs, and playing with other dogs. You should prioritise ignoring as this is something your puppy will need to do the most during their life. Greetings should be kept short and as calm as possible. If your pup is shy, allow them to approach at their own pace. If your pup is over-excited, keep the greeting to a few seconds, and reinforce moving away from the other dog. Read the free document on dog body language on the Kindred Paws website for more help with dog to dog interactions.

When taking your puppy to a new place, try to go at a quiet time and bring treats, a toy, or a chew to help create a positive association with the experience. If your puppy is not fully vaccinated yet, you can carry them, use a dog pram or trolley, sit in the back of the car and watch, or use a mat or blanket on the ground to sit on. It is important to consider the risk of disease, however sometimes you need to get creative to make the experience safe. It is best to visit places multiple times to help your puppy become comfortable there.

When introducing your puppy to new things or experiences, like grooming or household objects, break the experience down into smaller bits so your puppy can succeed. Successful socialisation looks like a calm, confident puppy. Increasing the 'difficulty' slowly, such as starting with a low volume of noise, further distance away, or less stimulating movement, will help your puppy do their best. Use food and positive reinforcement to reward their success. In some cases, success is doing nothing - e.g. great job for not chasing the broom!