

TATE Animal Training Enterprises.



PUPPY SOCIALISATION:

INTRODUCTION

The word 'socialisation' refers to the term used to define how puppies learn to communicate with other dogs, people of all ages and the environment. Although your dog will continue to learn throughout their entire life, between the age of 0-16 weeks is when they are most vulnerable to change and new experiences, whether they are good or bad, they can have a long lasting effect on your dogs behaviour for the rest of it's life. It is far more important to get your puppy out and socialised from the minute you bring them home than keep them at home until they get their 16 week vaccination. (Obviously use common sense & don't take them straight to a dog park but rather friends houses, car trips and areas dogs aren't likely to toilet).

WHERE TO BEGIN

A good place to start is by writing a list of all the places/things/people/animals you want your puppy to be comfortable around as he matures. Things as insignificant as raking the lawn or vacuuming the house should be considered. It's amazing how many pups don't receive exposure to these things and as an adult dog they develop incessant barking or fear towards these regular household items.

- The list provided will give you a guide of what you should work on. Try to add at least 4-5 ticks to each box before your pup reaches 16 weeks. There is also a spot at the bottom to add any extra things that may be relevant to your lifestyle such as horses, tractors e.t.c.

When introducing your puppy to anything new it's important that it happens at a rate your puppy can handle. You want to make every new situation as comfortable and positive as possible so always have treats on you, or your puppy's favourite toy if they have one.

Learn to read your puppies 'worried' signs. Things to look out for include, ears pinned back, tail tucked close to the body, eyes open wide, barking a lot, licking lips or yawning more than usual. If you notice any of these signs it may be an indication that you are moving things too quickly.

Attached is a checklist ready to go. Add any extras you can think of relative to your lifestyle and get started. HAVE FUN!!!!

NB: In this time if you notice any aggression or anxiety forming in your puppy contact a professional dog trainer for further guidance.

DOGGIE LANGUAGE

starring Boogie the Boston Terrier



ALERT



SUSPICIOUS



ANXIOUS



THREATENED



ANGRY



"PEACE!"
look away/head turn



STRESSED
yawn



STRESSED
nose lick



"PEACE!"
sniff ground



"RESPECT!"
turn & walk away



"NEED SPACE"
whale eye



STALKING



STRESSED
scratching



STRESS RELEASE
shake off



RELAXED
soft ears, blinky eyes



"RESPECT!"
offer his back



FRIENDLY & POLITE
curved body



FRIENDLY



"PRETTY PLEASE"
round puppy face



"I'M YOUR LOVEBUG"
belly-rub pose



"HELLO I LOVE YOU!"
greeting stretch



"I'M FRIENDLY!"
play bow



"READY!"
prey bow



"YOU WILL FEED ME"



CURIOUS
head tilt



HAPPY
(or hot)



OVERJOYED
wiggly



"MMMM..."



"I LOVE YOU,
DON'T STOP"