

Beginning Socialization for your Puppy – SOK9T

I recommend starting your socialization as soon as possible but safely. So keep your dog away from areas or surfaces you see that have been soiled by dogs or other animals, mainly grassy areas. Even if you are still working on your shots, expose your dog to as many people, surfaces, city noises, appliances, scooters, children, vacuum cleaners, etc., as possible, especially between 8 to 14 weeks old.

Pick and choose the people you allow to interact with your dog. Everyone should respect your instructions to have them calmly pet your dog. Do not allow anyone to stress your dog. Have short interactions but calm interactions.

Be around other dogs but at a distance. After shots have finished, be careful what dogs they engage. Loosey-goosey, happy, playful, calm dogs are a good place to start. But make sure the owners are focused on their dog, and they first ask permission to have their dog meet yours. Then do not tangle your leashes, and be ready to pull your dog away or intercede if the other is showing signs of being stressed, pushy, or indicators the dog is loading and about to be aggressive.

Nose-to-nose greetings are the most dangerous interactions you can have with other dogs. So be focused on the interactions if you decide to meet other dogs. The best is to just exist in the area of other dogs. And when they interact, it should always be a give-and-take. One dog pushing around another can lead to a remembered distress of other dogs when hitting their adolescent years, i.e., then turn into dog reactivity.