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# Enrichment



## Enrichment

### Training Enrichment

- Positive Reward Based Training
- Quiet time training – Calming therapies

### Design Enrichment

- Kennel design – 3D facilities
  - Platforms
  - Enhanced exercise areas
  - Digging areas
  - Planting

### Toys

- Puzzle feeders
- General toys

### Sounds

- Household noises
- Music

### Scents



# Socialisation

## **Puppy Socialisation**

It is very important that puppies are introduced to as many experiences as possible when they are young. Before 14 weeks old, puppies react to new experiences with interest and curiosity, wanting to find out more about their new world. After this time, they tend to be scared of unfamiliar things.

As a vaccination course takes several weeks to take full effect, you can't immediately take them out for a walk and show them everything you would like to. However there are plenty of new experiences they can safely experience before they are fully vaccinated.

You need to take care not to scare your puppy, but you should not be over-protective either. The best plan is a "jolly hockey-sticks" type approach, something along the lines of "Yes, there's a big scary vacuum cleaner over there, but come and play with this ball," with lots of praise when your puppy does so. If you overprotect them, they will become more anxious.

Whilst puppies should not be taken for walks on the road, or the park or anywhere strange dogs could go, until a week after their second vaccination, there are plenty of experiences they can be introduced to without walking. Most puppies are small enough to be carried for several weeks after you get them. Think how many fun new experiences you can share. Don't wait until after their second vaccination before they leave the house.

## **People**

Dogs should meet as many different types, sizes and shapes of people as possible – adults, children, women, men, men with beards, people with walking sticks, people in hats etc.

When dogs cower away from people, it is likely to be because they are unfamiliar with that sort of person and are scared.

## **Dogs**

After the first vaccination, your puppy can meet fully vaccinated dogs at your house or theirs. You should make sure the first dogs your puppy meets are well socialised and not over-confident or aggressive.

## **Cats**

Your puppy needs to learn how to be introduced to as many different animals as possible. Many of these species are "prey" species – it is natural for a puppy to want to chase them and he must learn from an early age that this is not acceptable

To introduce your puppy to a cat, for example, restrain your puppy so he cannot chase the cat and continue until the cat is used to him. It is best to have two people, one to stroke and treat each animal, until they become used to each other. Once this stage is complete, introduce your puppy to the cat, without restraint but watch very closely. At the first sign of him wanting to chase it, distract him with a game.

Do not force the cat to go anywhere near your puppy until he or she is ready. Forcing them closer is likely to lead to both animals becoming upset and possibly one getting hurt.

### **Livestock and other pets**

You should also introduce him to horses, sheep, cattle etc. This should be done on a lead, under control and at a distance, to avoid the animal trying to run away. This would only encourage your puppy to chase them.

By being introduced to lots of animals your puppy should eventually think they are boring and take no notice. Carry a favourite toy with you and if he becomes excited, channel his excitement onto that.

### **Household Items**

Many household appliances can be scary to a dog who has never encountered them before. Try to familiarise him with all the things in the house which make funny noises, such as the whirr of washing machines and the buzz of hairdryers and vacuum cleaners.

### **Traffic**

Traffic includes not only cars, lorries, tractors and so on, but also bicycles. Traffic noises can vary according to the weather, so don't forget to take him out in the rain.

Many dogs are travel sick or anxious in the car. Start with very, very short journeys, or even a stationary car. Pheromone sprays and collars are available at the surgery to help dogs who are car sick.

You never know when your car may break down, so take your dog on a trip in a bus or train in case you have to use one.

### **Different Environments**

If you live in a town, take your puppy to the country; if you live in a quiet area, take you puppy to town. A visit to a dog friendly pub, car boot sales or country show offers all sorts of new experiences. You should also make sure they are familiar with grooming parlours, boarding kennels or veterinary surgeries.

### **Problems**

If you are having problems, please contact the surgery for advice.

A check list is useful to allow you to fully socialise your puppy. Tick the box at every encounter and remember to continue socialising until your puppy is 12 months old

**Before First Vaccine (under 8 weeks)**

Men						
Women						
Children (a few at a time)						
Babies						
Elderly people						
Loud/confident people						
Shy/ quiet people						
Cats which are part of your household						
Other dogs which are part of your household						
Other domestic pets						
Stairs						
Washing machine						
Vacuum cleaner						
Tumble dryer						
Hair dryer						
Children's toys						
Being alone						
DIY tools						
Travelling in cars						
Wearing a collar						
Veterinary Surgery						

**Between First and Second Vaccination (8-11 weeks)**

Continue what you started before the first vaccine, but also include the following.

Vehicles – cars, lorries, buses (whilst being carried)						
Bicycles (whilst being carried)						
Children (several eg carry past playgrounds or schools)						
Veterinary surgery						
Other people's houses						
Dogs in their house or yours						
Cats in other houses or garden						
Grooming						
Teeth cleaning						
Examination of eyes, ears, teeth etc						
People wearing hats/helmets						
People wearing glasses						
People in uniform						
Delivery people especially the postman						
People of different ethnic origins						
Bathing						
Walking on the lead in garden						
Men with beards or moustaches						



# Health & Welfare Plans



# Staff Dog Ratios