

Additional resources at: **k911foundation.com/helpful-info**

**Objects:**

* Dog bowls (plastic, metal, ceramic)
* Toys (bones, soft, rope, squeak, etc)
* Roller skates, skateboards, bikes
* Strollers
* Umbrellas – open & close
* Children’s toys
* Plastic bags
* Balloons
* Mirrors
* Crutches, canes, wheelchairs
* Sprinklers
* Brooms/mops

**Alone:**

It’s really important that puppies learn how to cope on their own without you around. Set up scenarios in which your dog is apart from you and gradually increase the length of time. Ie. Kennel or back yard. More info on this topic is located on our website.

**Animals:**

* Dogs – all sizes, breeds, ages, both male and female.
* Cats/kittens – different sizes and breeds
* Farm animals
* Birds, ducks, geese
* Squirrels
* Dogs visiting your home

**Enviornments:**

* Vet office (visit without having an appointment)
* Animal friendly stores (see our website for a list)
* Surfaces: sand, grass, mud, wood, tile, gravel, concrete, carpet, etc
* Car rides & parking lots
* Pools/ lakes/ creeks
* Parks & playgrounds
* Bridges & tunnels
* Stairs, escalators
* Sporting events
* Training classes
* Crowds, parties, parades

**Sounds:**

* Vacuum
* Blow dryer
* Lawn mower
* Trucks/motorcycles
* Car horn
* Doorbell & knocking
* Slamming doors
* Sirens
* Fireworks
* Squeak toys
* Musical instruments/music
* Rain/ thunder
* Garage doors
* Children crying

**Handling:**

* Wearing a collar/ leash
* Being touched – pet head, muzzle, body, paws, ears, around eyes, etc
* Check paws/ touching nails (will help when it’s time to trim nails)
* Trimming nails
* Checking/ brushing teeth
* Cleaning ears, face
* Water (bath, shower, hose)
* Towel drying
* Brushing / combing
* Pick up/ carry
* Hold/ hug/ restrain

**People:**

* Males & females
* Ages: babies, toddlers, kids, teens, adults, elderly.
* Different ethnicities
* People in varied attire: hats, glasses, coats, sunglasses, gloves, etc
* Men with facial hair
* Bald/balding people
* Noises: loud talking, shouting, laughter, arguing, singing, etc.
* Joggers, skaters, etc
* Bicycle riders
* Groomers & Trainers

Socialization is an essential part to your puppy’s development and will lay the foundation for a well-adjusted dog. Early, positive, gradual exposure is the key to building their confidence, decreasing fears, and decreasing behavioral problems in the future. The critical time period is up to 18-20wks, but should be continued throughout the dog’s **lifetime.** This checklist is meant as a guide. Make each experience positive by providing treats, having others offer treats, and by giving lots of loving praise.

**Socialization 101**