

SOCIALISATION & HABITUATION PROGRAMME

The importance of socialisation and habituation cannot be underestimated. There have been many studies proving that early encounters and the resulting learning can set the dog up on the right or wrong path for life.

NEW PUPPY FROM AROUND 8 WEEKS

These are the things you can be doing during the time that the dog is in the incubation period of his inoculations. Your vet will have said not let him go out until he is about 12 weeks of age. Your vet is quite rightly thinking about your pet's immunity to illnesses that can be fatal in dogs. However, this does not take care of the mental needs of the dog – but you can do something about this while keeping your dog safe.

CHECKLIST GUIDELINES

Individuality - Obviously, the list is by no means set in stone. You will be able to add differing situations to your list of accomplishments. But with this, you know what to look out for and go in search of.

Consider Risk - Also, some of these encounters involve other people, children and animals – make sure you do not put any person or animal at risk of fear or injury during your training – all encounters should be under full control and risk assessed.

Prioritise - Consider what the dog needs to know or be able to do first – for example - it will be worth working on a good 'leave on command' before introducing your dog to cats for the first time. Before introducing your dog to someone to greet, it would be useful to have taught him to sit or stand still and be stroked or simply keep still even if not going to the touching stage.

Take Precautions - For each situation consider how you will approach it and what precautions need to be taken. For example, meeting people does not mean jumping all over them. Many people will not like this, and it may cause fear or injury to the young, vulnerable or frail. Not all dogs can tolerate other dogs well – any meeting or play session should be controlled and agreed upon with all concerned.

DON'T DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD

Development stages - Pay particular attention to the dog's development stages. Be ready for changes in behaviour and allow for them to give the dog more time when necessary e.g., second fear impact stage, adolescence etc. as well as preventing problems occurring e.g., running off during flight instinct period.

Gradual Exposure - Ensure that you approach with care and use gradual exposure techniques like systematic desensitisation. For example, if a dog is clearly reluctant he is likely fearful, go back to a place where he is not fearful and build up his confidence over time. This may take more than one session – it is better to move on over several sessions than put the dog into a panic that may have a lasting effect on his confidence.

Treat trails are often an effective technique, especially if you anticipate a problem. For example, something that the dog has to encounter that would seem strange – like a statue of a dog in a shopping area. Lay a trail of treats to the statue and some on it if you can so that the dog doesn't fear it or at least gets a good experience on that first encounter.

CHECKLIST CHALLENGE

Do not consider the checklist as a challenge to be fulfilled as fast as possible -moreover, it is a bit like a doggy bucket list which we should try to complete before your dog is fully mature. The more you can pack in the better, however, not at all costs. The dog will need to go at a speed that can be coped with – so take your time but keep looking for new adventures that will incorporate things from your list. Spend time on your training of the basics to gain good control during the process. Both are equally important.

Most importantly support your dog and be a friend, not an enemy. Enjoy your time together and your relationship will grow into the best you can have.

PEOPLE					
PEOPLE	Umbrella <input type="checkbox"/>	With Stick <input type="checkbox"/>	Wheelchair <input type="checkbox"/>	Jogging <input type="checkbox"/>	Elderly <input type="checkbox"/>
	Helmets <input type="checkbox"/>	Hats <input type="checkbox"/>	Uniform <input type="checkbox"/>	Cycling <input type="checkbox"/>	In a Car <input type="checkbox"/>
	Seated <input type="checkbox"/>	In Crowds <input type="checkbox"/>	Delivery <input type="checkbox"/>	Visitor <input type="checkbox"/>	Injured <input type="checkbox"/>
	Homeless <input type="checkbox"/>	Shop Assistant <input type="checkbox"/>	Someone to ignore <input type="checkbox"/>	Someone to greet <input type="checkbox"/>	
WOMEN	Large <input type="checkbox"/>	Small <input type="checkbox"/>	Loud <input type="checkbox"/>	Quiet <input type="checkbox"/>	Made up <input type="checkbox"/>
	Glasses <input type="checkbox"/>	Sunglasses <input type="checkbox"/>	In a dress <input type="checkbox"/>	Dressed up <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
MEN	Big <input type="checkbox"/>	Small <input type="checkbox"/>	Loud <input type="checkbox"/>	Quiet <input type="checkbox"/>	Bearded <input type="checkbox"/>
	Glasses <input type="checkbox"/>	Deep Voice <input type="checkbox"/>	Uniformed <input type="checkbox"/>		Other <input type="checkbox"/>
TEENAGERS	Hoodies <input type="checkbox"/>	Earphones <input type="checkbox"/>	On phone <input type="checkbox"/>	Standing <input type="checkbox"/>	Walking <input type="checkbox"/>
TODDLERS	Pushchair <input type="checkbox"/>	Crawling <input type="checkbox"/>	Playing <input type="checkbox"/>	Crying <input type="checkbox"/>	Approaching <input type="checkbox"/>
BABIES	In a pram <input type="checkbox"/>	In a stroller <input type="checkbox"/>	Being held <input type="checkbox"/>	Being fed <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
OTHERS					

Add your own notes on this category e.g., other encounters, degree of difficulty, interesting points and places.

ANIMALS	No pulling towards	or away from.	No reactivity No Chasing	No noise Stay calm	Ok to look but no touching!
DOGS	On Lead <input type="checkbox"/>	Off lead <input type="checkbox"/>	At a Distance <input type="checkbox"/>	Close by <input type="checkbox"/>	In a class <input type="checkbox"/>
	Large <input type="checkbox"/>	Small <input type="checkbox"/>	Black <input type="checkbox"/>	White <input type="checkbox"/>	Flat face <input type="checkbox"/>
	Panting <input type="checkbox"/>	Laid Down <input type="checkbox"/>	Playing <input type="checkbox"/>	Running <input type="checkbox"/>	Being carried <input type="checkbox"/>
	Barking <input type="checkbox"/>	Male <input type="checkbox"/>	Female <input type="checkbox"/>	Fluffy <input type="checkbox"/>	Shaggy <input type="checkbox"/>
	Older <input type="checkbox"/>	Younger <input type="checkbox"/>	Dressed <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
CATS	Still <input type="checkbox"/>	Moving <input type="checkbox"/>	Running <input type="checkbox"/>	Quiet <input type="checkbox"/>	Meowing <input type="checkbox"/>
	Eating <input type="checkbox"/>	Kittens <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
HORSES	In a Field <input type="checkbox"/>	In a Stable <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Ridden <input type="checkbox"/>	Rider talking <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Led <input type="checkbox"/>
	Racing <input type="checkbox"/>	Trotting <input type="checkbox"/>	Riders mounting <input type="checkbox"/>	Riders dismounting <input type="checkbox"/>	Loading <input type="checkbox"/>
FARM LIVESTOCK	Sheep <input type="checkbox"/>	Cattle <input type="checkbox"/>	Chickens <input type="checkbox"/>	Ducks <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
	Goats <input type="checkbox"/>	Pigs <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
BIRDS	Through a window <input type="checkbox"/>	In a garden <input type="checkbox"/>	In a park <input type="checkbox"/>	On a pond <input type="checkbox"/>	Flying Over <input type="checkbox"/>
OTHER ANIMALS	Rabbits <input type="checkbox"/>	Llama <input type="checkbox"/>			
	Pets <input type="checkbox"/>				

Add your own notes on this category e.g., other encounters, degree of difficulty, interesting points and places.

HANDLING	Calm Acceptance	No fear responses	No growling or teeth	Acceptance of others	Mild avoidance ok but no refusal
PAWS	Touched <input type="checkbox"/>	Held <input type="checkbox"/>	Dried <input type="checkbox"/>	Examined <input type="checkbox"/>	Washed & Dried <input type="checkbox"/>
feet, nails, pads, hair	Nails clipped <input type="checkbox"/>	Hair between pads trim <input type="checkbox"/>	Front paws <input type="checkbox"/>	Hind Paws <input type="checkbox"/>	Gives Paws <input type="checkbox"/>
EARS	Touched <input type="checkbox"/>	Held <input type="checkbox"/>	Examined <input type="checkbox"/>	Cleaned <input type="checkbox"/>	Groomed <input type="checkbox"/>
Inner, outer, groom, treat	Smelled <input type="checkbox"/>	Trimmed if necessary <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
GROOMING	Back <input type="checkbox"/>	Chest <input type="checkbox"/>	Underside <input type="checkbox"/>	Legs <input type="checkbox"/>	feet <input type="checkbox"/>
The puppy positions can be utilised here.	Leg feathering <input type="checkbox"/>	Around back end <input type="checkbox"/>	Towel dried <input type="checkbox"/>	Being bathed <input type="checkbox"/>	Hair dryer <input type="checkbox"/>
EYES	Look into <input type="checkbox"/>	Hold still <input type="checkbox"/>	Accept hand approaching <input type="checkbox"/>	Approach with dropper <input type="checkbox"/>	other <input type="checkbox"/>
	Cleaned <input type="checkbox"/>				
MOUTH	Lips <input type="checkbox"/>	Open mouth <input type="checkbox"/>	Check teeth <input type="checkbox"/>	Test CRT <input type="checkbox"/>	Tongue <input type="checkbox"/>
Capillary refill time CRT.	Throat <input type="checkbox"/>	Palate <input type="checkbox"/>	Accept fingers in <input type="checkbox"/>	Teeth Brushed <input type="checkbox"/>	
TREATMENT	Being restrained <input type="checkbox"/>	Being bandaged <input type="checkbox"/>	Being held <input type="checkbox"/>	Being fed <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
WEARING	Collar <input type="checkbox"/>	Harness <input type="checkbox"/>	Lead <input type="checkbox"/>	Muzzle <input type="checkbox"/>	Coat <input type="checkbox"/>
	Other <input type="checkbox"/>				
GENERAL HANDLING	Handled all over <input type="checkbox"/>	Handled by strangers <input type="checkbox"/>			

Add notes on this category e.g., other encounters, degree of difficulty, interesting points and places.

ENVIRONMENTS INDOORS	Calm control	Happy to settle and wait where & when told	Not in the face of other dogs or people	Greet others only when invited	Acceptance of others (animals or people) in the environment
HOUSES	Your Own <input type="checkbox"/>	Friends <input type="checkbox"/>	Family <input type="checkbox"/>	Upstairs <input type="checkbox"/>	Floor surfaces <input type="checkbox"/>
	Household noises <input type="checkbox"/>	Vacuum Cleaner <input type="checkbox"/>	Washing Machine <input type="checkbox"/>	Dryers <input type="checkbox"/>	Dishwasher <input type="checkbox"/>
	Television <input type="checkbox"/>	Radio <input type="checkbox"/>	Neighbours <input type="checkbox"/>	Fan <input type="checkbox"/>	Deliveries <input type="checkbox"/>
	Doorbell <input type="checkbox"/>	Telephone <input type="checkbox"/>			
SHOPS	Pet Shop <input type="checkbox"/>	Gift Shop <input type="checkbox"/>	Post Office? <input type="checkbox"/>	Bank? <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
Seek out Shops that allow it	Go Outdoors <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
CAFÉ – SOME ARE SPECIALLY FOR DOGS	Dog Friendly <input type="checkbox"/>	Allows <input type="checkbox"/>	Outdoors <input type="checkbox"/>	Indoors <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
Write in the names to remind you	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
SMALL SPACES	Bathroom <input type="checkbox"/>	Bedroom <input type="checkbox"/>	Office <input type="checkbox"/>	Lift/elevator <input type="checkbox"/>	Toilet <input type="checkbox"/>
	Vets <input type="checkbox"/>	Waiting room <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
FLOOR/GROUND SURFACES	Grass <input type="checkbox"/>	Carpet <input type="checkbox"/>	Tarmac <input type="checkbox"/>	Concrete <input type="checkbox"/>	Pebbles <input type="checkbox"/>
Caution regarding temperature & slips	Slippery <input type="checkbox"/>	Rubber <input type="checkbox"/>	Sand <input type="checkbox"/>	Bridges <input type="checkbox"/>	Mud <input type="checkbox"/>
	Tiles <input type="checkbox"/>	Wood <input type="checkbox"/>	Wet <input type="checkbox"/>	Puddles <input type="checkbox"/>	
GROOMERS/VETS	Waiting areas <input type="checkbox"/>	On a table <input type="checkbox"/>	Bath <input type="checkbox"/>	Dryer <input type="checkbox"/>	Clippers <input type="checkbox"/>
Preparation will take the stress out of the visit for your dog & groomer/vet.	Brushes and combs <input type="checkbox"/>	Other dogs in a cage <input type="checkbox"/>	Nail Clippers <input type="checkbox"/>	Being left <input type="checkbox"/>	Being restrained <input type="checkbox"/>
(See HANDLING above)	Being handled by others <input type="checkbox"/>	Settle in a crate <input type="checkbox"/>	Walk past other dogs <input type="checkbox"/>	Being handled all over <input type="checkbox"/>	
HOTELS & GUEST HOUSES	Parking <input type="checkbox"/>	Reception <input type="checkbox"/>	Bedroom <input type="checkbox"/>	Public areas <input type="checkbox"/>	
Teach your dog its manners. Not everyone likes dogs. Don't make that worse for them!	Settled in the car	Able to greet or not as required	Trained to not go on the bed or other furniture	To remain calm in a settle and greet only if invited	

ENVIRONMENTS OUTDOORS	Full control at all times	No interference with others	Acceptance of new situations	Good recovery to any trauma	No eating found items
LARGE OPEN SPACES	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Beach <input type="checkbox"/>	Fields <input type="checkbox"/>	Dog Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Rural Walk <input type="checkbox"/>
Remembering where you should & should not go.	Moors <input type="checkbox"/>	With water <input type="checkbox"/>	With lots of public <input type="checkbox"/>	Quiet <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
FLOOR/GROUND SURFACES	Grass <input type="checkbox"/>	Carpet <input type="checkbox"/>	Tarmac <input type="checkbox"/>	Concrete <input type="checkbox"/>	Pebbles <input type="checkbox"/>
Caution regarding temperature & slips	Slippery <input type="checkbox"/>	Rubber <input type="checkbox"/>	Sand <input type="checkbox"/>	Bridges <input type="checkbox"/>	Mud <input type="checkbox"/>
	Tiles <input type="checkbox"/>	Board walk <input type="checkbox"/>	Steps <input type="checkbox"/>	Slopes <input type="checkbox"/>	
NOISES & SIGHTS	Market <input type="checkbox"/>	Boot Sale <input type="checkbox"/>	Football match <input type="checkbox"/>	Near School <input type="checkbox"/>	Town/City <input type="checkbox"/>
Use gradual exposure techniques	Traffic <input type="checkbox"/>	Music <input type="checkbox"/>	Rubbish Truck <input type="checkbox"/>	Lorries <input type="checkbox"/>	Motorbikes <input type="checkbox"/>
	Birds <input type="checkbox"/>	Honking horns <input type="checkbox"/>	Sirens <input type="checkbox"/>	Tractor <input type="checkbox"/>	Cycles <input type="checkbox"/>
	Dropped Objects <input type="checkbox"/>	Slamming doors <input type="checkbox"/>	Crowds <input type="checkbox"/>	Crow scarers <input type="checkbox"/>	Shooting <input type="checkbox"/>
CAR/VAN	Safe Entry <input type="checkbox"/>	Safe Exit <input type="checkbox"/>	Safe Travel <input type="checkbox"/>	Parked on a road <input type="checkbox"/>	Parked in a car park <input type="checkbox"/>
	Parked in a multistorey <input type="checkbox"/>	Parked in a noisy area <input type="checkbox"/>	Music <input type="checkbox"/>	Talk on radio <input type="checkbox"/>	Passengers in the car <input type="checkbox"/>
OTHER TRANSPORT	Taxi <input type="checkbox"/>	Bus <input type="checkbox"/>	Train <input type="checkbox"/>	Tube/Underground <input type="checkbox"/>	
Station areas	Rank <input type="checkbox"/> Ques <input type="checkbox"/>	Station or Stop <input type="checkbox"/>	Station <input type="checkbox"/> Crossing <input type="checkbox"/>	Steps <input type="checkbox"/> Lift <input type="checkbox"/> corridors <input type="checkbox"/>	

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