



**Pawsitive Experience**  
1289 NW Promontory Dr.  
Bend, OR 97701  
541-318-8459  
[trainingdogs123@bendbroadband.com](mailto:trainingdogs123@bendbroadband.com)  
[www.PawsitiveExperience.com](http://www.PawsitiveExperience.com)

## **Socializing your Dog**

It is important to socialize your dog throughout its' life. The imprint age range is 3-20 weeks, and it starts to close at 16 weeks. So you start socialization, the better. Check with you vet regarding his/her views on socialization and your puppy's vaccination schedule. Also many dogs go through fear periods so constant socialization will get you through these periods with ease. A common fear period is around 9-13 months of age.

Socializing your puppy does not mean dragging him up to things he fears. If your dog is fearful at something new you want to proceed carefully and make the introductions slowly. You want to gradually introduce him to new situations and expose him gradually. Otherwise your socialization process could backfire. Act confident and happy about this new experience for your puppy. If you act nervous, your puppy will get nervous too. Stroking your dog and repeating "it's okay" might be read by your puppy that you are afraid as well.

Below is a list of things to expose your dog to when young:

### **Animals**

1. Bring your puppy to friends' homes with nice and gentle dogs. If you are taking a training class with other puppies, introduce yourself and ask if you could get together for a puppy play session.
2. Meet cats, pet birds, horses, llamas, goats, etc.

### **People, including children**

1. Take your puppy to the vet, groomer and pet store and have the staff feed him.
2. Take your puppy to the park
3. Take him to a soccer or baseball game with children, and get him used to children running and yelling. Introduce him to well behaved children. Often dogs that aren't introduced to children at a young age become afraid, or even aggressive towards them.
4. Introduce your puppy to people who are different than you. Men with beards, people wearing different types of hats, carrying umbrellas, in wheel chairs, on

bicycles, on skates/skateboards, and pulling a stroller, or of a different race. There are cultural differences on how we talk and approach that may look different to our dogs.

## **Sights and Sounds**

1. As mentioned above, expose your puppy to bicycles, skateboards, scooters and strollers. I see many dogs afraid of things on wheels, especially if they make noise.
2. Take a ride on an elevator, on a boat, and of course car rides in your car.
3. Have him over to other people's homes. Someday you may be leaving him with a friend for care. Prepare for that event. Maybe have him over for sleepovers without you.
4. Get him on different surfaces. If you have carpet in your home, get him on linoleum or other slippery surfaces. Put him on gravel, climb over rocks, walk on mulch, etc.
5. If you live on a quiet street, take him on walks on busy streets with traffic going by.

Meredith Gage

Pawsitive Experience

[Trainingdogs123@bendbroadband.com](mailto:Trainingdogs123@bendbroadband.com)

<http://www.PawsitiveExperience.com>