



Woofpack Dog Training
www.woofpacknc.com

Socialization

Socialization is introducing your puppy to new things in a way that prepares them for the unexpected. Proper socialization can help prevent numerous behavior issues and help you have a more friendly, well-rounded pup!

5 Rules of Socialization

1. Quality over Quantity

A smaller amount of good, happy experiences is better than many bad experiences.

2. Aim for Neutral to Positive Experiences

The goal is for new experiences to be as happy as possible but anything in the range of neutral to happy is good socialization.

3. Reward Brave Behavior

When your puppy is sniffing and exploring on their own, reward them! Bring their favorite toy, allow them to continue sniffing, or give treats to show them that being curious and brave is a good thing!

4. Add Variety

Try to introduce your pup to a large variety of new things. Think of things your dog may encounter throughout their life and show them they don't need to be afraid of something just because it's new to them.

- Friendly, calm people
- New Environments
- New Situations
- New Surfaces
- Calm, friendly dogs (know their bite history prior to introduction!)

5. Be Careful Responding to Fear

If your puppy is fearful or hesitant, don't force an interaction. Instead, use time and rewards to help them through difficult situations.

- Encourage them with your actions and your voice.
- Allow them to spend time at a distance checking out the new object or person.
- Reward them for any sign of bravery.
- **Be careful not to pick them up and give attention just because they show hesitation. This can reward the hesitation and make it much more difficult to introduce new things in the future.**