

# PUPPY SOCIALIZATION CHECKLIST



Watrous Animal Hospital

The first 16 weeks of a puppy's life is the most critical. You want to expose your puppy to as many different places, people, sights, and smells as you can! Remember to keep it positive, and give your puppy lots of praise and rewards. For certain sounds, they can be played online or use a soundtrack. This checklist is a starting point, and should be repeated several times with your puppy.

## HANDLING

- Touch & play with ears
- Rub eyelids, touch around the eye
- Squeeze, touch & hold paws
- Touch face & over body
- Touch nails
- Opening & examining mouth
- Being pet by children

## AROUND THE HOUSE

- Vacuum
- Broom & mop
- Blender
- Garbage bags
- Other loud or unexpected noises
- Doorbell
- People coming to the door

## TRANSPORTATION

- Garbage truck
- Grocery cart
- Bicycle
- Motorcycle, dirtbike
- Skateboard

## TEXTURES

- Gravel
- Wet grass
- Sand and dirt
- Different flooring: carpet, laminate, tile
- Different outdoor surfaces: wild grass, fields, etc.

## SOUNDS

- Fireworks
- Thunderstorms
- Loud, unexpected noises
- Crying baby
- Different animal sounds (can be on TV)
- Sirens
- Barking dogs

## PEOPLE & ANIMALS

- Wearing hats, hoods, masks, or other similar items.
- Elderly
- People exercising: running, roller blading
- Men, women, and young children
- Crowds
- Delivery persons
- Different breeds, ages, and temperaments of dogs

## EXPERIENCES

- Nail trims
- Groomer
- Car rides
- Pet store
- Vet clinic just as a social visit
- Puppy classes
- Elevator
- Areas with lots of people

## YOUR NOTES

My puppy liked: \_\_\_\_\_

My puppy didn't like: \_\_\_\_\_

We need to work on: \_\_\_\_\_

Other ideas/comments: \_\_\_\_\_