



Seeking Shalom Acres

Maltese, Havanese, Maltipoos, & Havamalts

Puppy Socialization Checklist

Congratulations on welcoming a new furry friend into your life! If your aim is to raise a joyful, well-mannered adult dog who will be your loyal companion for years to come, early socialization is vitally important. Socialization involves introducing your puppy to the world in a manner that fosters confidence and fearlessness towards people, places, and experiences he will encounter throughout his life. The crucial socialization period typically occurs before 12 weeks of age, with the window starting to close around 20 weeks.

Timing is crucial when it comes to socialization. It is far easier and more effective to create positive associations with new people and environments during your puppy's early stages than it is with an older dog. Using healthy treats to reinforce positive experiences is highly recommended, so ensure you have a stash of treats ready for each new encounter. If your puppy appears scared and refuses treats, it's important to dial back the intensity of the situation until he feels at ease and is willing to accept treats again. This may involve creating some distance or temporarily removing him from the situation.

Socialization also involves generalization. Continuously exposing your puppy to new stimuli, environments, and situations will help him build confidence and adaptability. To set your puppy up for success, start early by creating positive associations with various experiences as frequently as possible. For instance, carrying your puppy to a bustling outdoor market or downtown area can provide multiple exposure opportunities in one go.

Category of Socialization	Specific Detailed Socialization	X	X	X	X	X
Puppy Body Handling	Handle puppy's ears, inside and out					
	Examine puppy's mouth: teeth, gums, tongue					
	Open puppy's eyelids					
	Squeeze puppy's feet, pinch gently between toenails					
	Clip, grind, & file puppy's toenails					
	Trim hair between puppy's paw pads with electric clippers					
	Move electric buzzer all over puppy's body					
	Handle puppy's whole tail					
	Pinch puppy's skin in multiple places					
	Cradle puppy in your arms on it's back like a baby					
	Hold puppy in your arms and hug puppy					
	Grab puppy's collar					
	Grab puppy by different parts of puppy's body					
Different Kinds of People	People of different color and ethnicities					
	People wearing hats and hoodies					
	People wearing sunglasses					
	People wearing backpacks					
	People walking with canes and walkers					
	People riding a bike					
	People running					
	Infants crying and grabbing					
	Toddlers squealing and walking					
	Children playing					
	Teenagers					
	Women					
	Men who are tall					
	Men with beards					
	Men with deep voices					
Elderly						

Sights And Sounds	Airplanes						
	Trucks						
	Car horns						
	Cars						
	Motorcycles						
	Thunderstorms						
	Fireworks						
	Sirens						
	Crowds of people						
	Doorbells						
	Skateboards						
	Wheelchairs						
	Different Places	Dog-friendly restaurants					
Dog-friendly events							
Dog-friendly stores							
Pet stores							
Pet groomer							
Dog training locations							
Veterinarian							
Boarding kennel							
Daycare							
Parks							
Friends & family homes							
Car rides							
Various Objects		Pots and pans					
	Vacuum cleaners						
	Brooms						
	Balloons						
	Umbrellas						
	Bags blowing in the wind						
	Garbage cans						
	Sidewalk signs						
	Escalators						
	Elevators						
	Noisy household appliances						
	Tents						
	Textures And Flooring	Wet grass					
Gravel rocks							
Dirt							
Smooth plastic							
Textured rubber mat							
Stairs							
Carpeted floors							
Tile floors							
Wood floors							
Animals	Other puppies						
	Other breed dogs						
	Adult male dogs						
	Adult female dogs						
	Cats						
	Kittens						
	Farm animals						