



Socializing Service Dogs in Training Checklist

Surfaces	Equipment	People
" Dirt	" Collar	" Babies
" Grass	" Leash	" Toddlers
" Gravel	" Crate	" Pre-Teens
" Sand	" Harness	" Teens
" Tile	" Vest	" Men
" Concrete	" Head Halter	" Women
" Slippery Surfaces	Smells	" People of all Races
" Puddles/Water	" Human Foods in various settings	" People Wearing Hats/Coats/Hoodies
" Grates	" Vehicle Exhaust	" Police Officers
Animals	" Paint	" Firemen
" Small animals	" Rubbing Alcohol	" People in Wheelchairs
" Birds	Things	" People with Medical Equipment
" Cats	" Traffic	" People in Costumes
" Farm animals	" Full-Wall Mirrors	Sounds
" Large dogs	" Vacuum	" Thunder
" Little dogs	" Stairs	" Barking Dogs
Places	" Balloons	" Diesel Engines
" Medical Office	" Umbrellas	" Loudspeaker
" Cafeteria	" Children's toys that make noise and move	" Music
" Trade Shops	" Mobility Equipment (wheelchair, cane, walker, motorized wheelchair)	
" Elevators		

Socializing Your Dog

...refers to providing him with POSITIVE experiences with NEW THINGS. The best way to make sure your dog has great experiences is to include things he loves (like food or toys)

new people

Let your dog approach at his own pace, if and when he wants to.



Associate new people with wonderful things.



BACON!

Make sure puppies are gently & positively exposed to different people.



children
seniors
people carrying & wearing stuff
different ethnicities
people on wheels...

other animals

Always check that the other animal is friendly & tolerant of dogs before you let your dog approach.



Can my dog say Hi?
Um... Better not.

Teach your dog how to act politely around other animals by rewarding him for good behavior. Redirect him if he's pushy or overly excited.



Over here! Good Boy!
WHEW! SHAKE SHAKE

If your adult dog doesn't want to play with unfamiliar dogs, that's okay. Adult people don't want to play with every other person we meet either!



Let's go.
Thank you, Mom!
RUFF! RUFF! RUFF!

new things & environments

To prevent **noise phobia** (eg, fear of thunder), feed your dog a tiny treat every time the noise happens.



BOOM!
CHICKEN!

CHEESE!

Introduce young dogs to lots of different surfaces.



gravel
tile floors
concrete
carpet
bridges
... plastic, rubber, snow, sand, etc.

Take rides in a boat, train car, or elevator.



WOOHOO!

Visit the vet & groomer's just for treats and petting.



YAY!

Teach your dog to enjoy wearing a muzzle by making it into a "treat basket"



YUM!

Avoid truly scary situations, such as fireworks.



****All dog-dog introductions with FSD puppies should be done off leash in a safe, fenced or enclosed area**

Visit parking lots and other busy places just to watch the people, animals, vehicles, etc. and feed your dog treats.



Remember: EXPOSURE alone isn't socialization!

If your dog isn't having a great time, you could do more harm than good. Dogs don't just "get over" issues by themselves, so if your dog is shy, worried, or overly excited, leave the situation and work with a professional who can help both of you. If your dog is having a blast and is happy and comfortable, you're doing a great job of socializing him!