

What is Socialisation?

Socialisation means puppies and dogs learn how to interact within their worlds.

Socialisation is vital. Each interaction must be tailored to your dog's personality with the purpose of teaching him how to interact within his world with confidence.

A socialised dog is a dog that can listen around other dogs, plays gently, walks on leash without lunging/barking, greets people in a friendly manner, doesn't mow over the toddler, is comfortable with the fact that people come in many shapes, colours, and scents; and understands the meaning of *you can't have that*.

If I teach my puppy that every time we are in public he gets all sorts of affection and attention from every person he sees, and if I teach my puppy that every dog is a playmate, why would he want to engage with me? In fact, in most exchanges, unless you are really good at this socialisation thing, you simply become the person that is holding your dog back from all of the fun things in the world.

When our dogs regularly get rewarded by their environment, they learn to hold value in many things that AREN'T YOU. And when they do that, those things are built to compete DIRECTLY with you for your dog's attention.

People aren't as distracting if they never reward my dog. And if I'm the only one playing with and treating my dog, I'm going to be the most valuable thing in his environment. People and other dogs become background noise. They are just there....moving....but never engaging or threatening to steal my thunder.

Tips:

Avoid letting dogs meet on lead.

Don't force your dog to approach unknown dogs or people.

Don't trust what other owners say about their 'friendly' dog. If you are unsure, avoid the encounter.

Not all dogs need to socialise to be happy.