

Socializing Your Puppy to Noises

Socialization means making positive associations with new people, animals, places and things. Use your puppy's favorite reinforcers like food and toys to teach them these are all good.

Getting your puppy used to noises is part of the socialization process. Pair fun and food with noises to help your puppy sail through life with confidence around all types of sounds.

Give your pup a yummy, long-lasting chew if a lawn mower or leaf blower is operating outside your home. Download and play sounds of traffic, storms, fireworks, playgrounds and more at low volume for three to five minutes while your puppy is eating or playing. Over a couple of days, increase the volume gradually. Repeat. If your puppy looks concerned or scared, turn down the volume.

Playing with your puppy is also a good way to create positive associations with sounds. Play hide and seek, fetch, and other fun games that your puppy enjoys during rain and storms. When construction is happening nearby, do a short training session for easy behaviors your puppy already knows, with lots of treats.



Feed for Hearing

Watch your puppy. When she's simply hearing noises, feed a small yummy treat or play a favorite game. Reward your puppy after a short, loud noise or during noisy times like storms.



Give Space

With noisy objects, your puppy may need some distance at first. Feed/play for looking and repeat several times. Gradually move closer to the object based on your puppy's body language—only if she looks comfortable. Always allow your puppy to dictate the pace of the training.



Keep it Short

Socialization sessions should be brief—only a minute or two at a time. Short and sweet is the motto! Remember to shift calories out of your puppy's food bowl—use some of their daily ration of food for training, and use long-lasting chews too.



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