

➤ Eaten from 12 different surfaces: plastic dog dish, metal dog dish, clear plastic big bowl, different colored bowls, cardboard, paper plate, china, tin pie plate, frying pan, linoleum floor, rubber mat, out of your hand, etc.

➤ Eaten in 12 different locations: kitchen, crate, yard, kennel, basement, laundry room, living room, bathroom, in the car, rest stop, park, beach, etc.



Photo Courtesy of: Virginia Skiby

➤ Gone to 12 new places: park, school yard, shopping center, parking lot, pet store, veterinary clinic, groomer, baseball game, beach, forest, puppy obedience classes, airport or bus station, etc.

➤ Been introduced to 12 new things: an umbrella, collar, leash, television, radio, fan, mirror, an elevator, escalator, alarm clock, skateboard, fireplace, etc.

➤ Become accustomed to 12 handling procedures: Being brushed, bathed, touching paws, clipping nails, showing teeth or opening mouth, lifting/holding up tail, rubbing belly, touching ears, taking temperature, wrapped in a towel, been blow dried, placing of collar or harness, etc.

12 Steps to Puppy Socialization



Photo Courtesy of: Terry Wright



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By the time your puppy is 12 weeks old, he/she should have:

- Met and played with 12 new people: including children of all ages, adults (both male and female), the mailman and other people in uniform, elderly people, disabled people, people wearing hats, people wearing glasses, and other people different from the puppy's usual encounters.
- Played with 12 different types of objects: big balls, small balls, rubber balls, tennis balls, soft fabric toys, fuzzy toys, squeaky toys, toy with a bell inside, paper or cardboard items, heavy rope, sticks, a kong, and anything else that will broaden his experience with objects.

- Been in 12 different locations in the home: front yard, back yard, basement, kitchen, car, garage, laundry room, bathroom, crate, your bedroom, spare bedroom, children's room, living room, closet, etc.
- Been introduced to 12 different types of surfaces: carpet, concrete, wood, vinyl, marble, foam, grass, dirt, gravel, wood chips, sand, paper, sawdust, & rubber matting.



Photo Courtesy of: Aurora Kennel

- Met and played with 12 new animals: including puppies, older dogs, kittens, adult cats, horses, and other animals that may be part of the family environment.
- Been exposed to 12 different sounds: vacuum, bus, garbage truck, other dogs barking, rustling of a paper bag, a dropped pot, washing machine, hair dryer, doorbell, toilet flushing, telephone ringing, high pitched children, running water, etc.
- Been exposed to 12 new challenges: climb on a box, go through a tunnel, climb steps, go down steps, climb over obstacles, go in a dog house, play hide and seek, go in and out of a doorway, run around a fence, walk beside a wheel chair, beside a bike, etc.