



The Curlabull Canine Training

Puppy Socialisation Plan (8 to 12 Weeks)

This plan focuses on controlled, positive exposure during the critical socialisation window (8–16 weeks, with 8–12 weeks being the most sensitive). All exposures must be short, positive, and paired with high-value treats (positive reinforcement).

Crucial Safety Note: Before your puppy is fully vaccinated, they should only interact with known, fully vaccinated, and healthy adult dogs. When outside, carry the puppy or use a buggy/trolley to prevent contact with public ground (paths, grass) where diseases may linger.

Phase 1: Weeks 8 – 9 (Settling In & Home Base)

Goal: Establish trust, comfortable handling, and positive association with sights and sounds primarily within and immediately outside the home.

Category	Sights & Experiences	Sounds & Auditory Exposure	Duration/Frequency
Handling	Gentle touching of paws, ears, tail, and mouth (essential for grooming and vet visits).	None (focus on tactile comfort).	Daily, 2-3 minutes per session.
People	Different family members (ages/genders). People wearing hats, glasses, or coats that look bulky.	Speaking in different tones (high-pitched, low-pitched, singing).	Daily, short sessions.

Household	The vacuum cleaner (at a distance), sweeping brush, mop, washing machine, TV, radio.	Doorbell/knocking (quietly at first), phone ringing, keys jangling.	Introduce 1-2 new items daily.
Environment	Different surfaces: Wood flooring, carpet, paving slabs (if outside, keep on a blanket/mat). Different objects: Opened umbrellas, delivery boxes, shopping bags.	Wind chimes, bird calls (recorded or natural), distant traffic (if audible).	Short, positive exposure (under 3 minutes).
Dogs/Pets	Interactions only with known, fully vaccinated, adult dogs with a calm temperament.	N/A	1-2 sessions per week.

Phase 2: Weeks 10 – 11 (Controlled Expansion)

Goal: Expand exposure to sights and sounds outside the home in a controlled manner, always ensuring safety before full vaccinations.

Category	Sights & Experiences	Sounds & Auditory Exposure	Duration/Frequency
Public Spaces	Carry the puppy to a busy street, a local park, or a school during pick-up/drop-off. See bikes, skateboards, people jogging/running.	Traffic sounds: Buses, lorries, motorbikes. General chatter, children laughing/shouting.	Daily short trips (5-10 minutes) per week as a minimum. More short trips out can be used, but being out for longer periods is very tiring for pups.

People	People in uniforms (postal worker, delivery driver, police officer if possible). People using walking sticks or pushchairs/buggies .	People talking loudly, babies crying (use recorded sound if necessary, at low volume).	Pair these sights with high-value treats.
Unusual Objects	Large objects being moved (e.g., bin bags being taken out, garden tools, ladders). Reflective surfaces like shop windows.	Recording of thunder and fireworks played very quietly during a relaxing activity (like chewing a treat).	Focus on positive neutrality—reward for being calm. Do not force a puppy near an object it is afraid of. You could approach the object to show the pup it is safe or give the pup time to assess the object, and the pup may move cautiously forward, given time.
Grooming	Introduce the sound and feeling of nail clippers (just touching the nail, not clipping initially). Gentle use of a soft brush. Clipping dog treats with the clippers is a great way to turn the sound into a positive.	Hairdryer (run in another room first, then closer).	Daily maintenance. If the pup bites the brush, you are likely to be grooming too quickly and for too long. Short sessions, with lots of rewards, are best. Brushing slowly will not excite the pup into biting.

Phase 3: Weeks 12 – 13 (Consolidation & Immersion)

Goal: Consolidate learned associations and gently increase the intensity and variety of

exposure once full vaccination status allows ground contact (as advised by your vet).

Category	Sights & Experiences	Sounds & Auditory Exposure	Duration/Frequency
Environment	Walks (post-vaccination): Experience different surfaces (gravel, metal grids, paving, grass, steps). Different weather (wind, light rain).	Loud construction or roadworks (view from a safe distance), trains/trams (view from afar).	Increase walk duration gradually.
Dogs/Animals	Introduce the puppy to a variety of safe, friendly adult dogs of different sizes and breeds (e.g., through puppy classes or a trusted friend's dog). Avoid dog parks.	Sounds made by other animals (e.g., horses, goats, recorded farm noises).	3-4 positive dog interactions per week.
Transport	Car rides to non-vet destinations. Seeing different types of cars, large vans, and possibly getting close to a stopped bus.	Engine sounds, horns (distant), car wash noises (at low level).	Aim for 2-3 positive car trips a week.
Self-Control	Practice the "wait" command before approaching new sights or meeting people.	Use of a squeaky toy or a loud clapping noise during a training session to test focus.	Integrate into daily routine.

General Socialisation Rules

1. **Always End on a Positive Note:** If the puppy is stressed, move away slightly, comfort them, and provide a treat before ending the session.
2. **Observe Body Language:** Look for signs of stress: lip licking, yawning, tail tucked, cowering. If you see them, you are too close or the experience is too intense.
3. **Treats are Key:** High-value treats (chicken, cheese, sausage) should *only* be used for socialisation and training, to maximise their positive impact.
4. **One New Thing at a Time:** Don't introduce a person wearing a hat, a loud lorry, and a slippery floor all at once. Isolate the new experience.

By consistently following this plan, your puppy should develop the confidence and resilience needed to cope with the everyday sights and sounds of the world.