

## **A Socialization Checklist**

*People (singly and in groups)*

men

women

children: playgrounds, schoolyards, running, shrieking, skateboarding, bicycling, babies

in strollers

black, white, East Asian, South Asian

people coming over to your house / apartment

delivery people

homeless people

can-collectors

wheelchairs (motorized and manual)

canes

walkers

granny carts (collapsible grocery carts)

shopping carts

hats

beards

dark glasses

heavy coats

uniforms: police, fire department, UPS, FedEx, USPS

shouting

spasmodic movement

slow, cautious movement

rapid movement

### *Places*

apartments of friends

subway / subway station / commuter train

vet's office

car, car rides

dog-friendly stores

farm

woods

beach

street

stairs

elevator

parking lot

highway overpass

city park (but please see my discussion of dog parks in the book before you go)

skating rink

### *Noises*

cars backfiring

rattling metal

banging pots and pans

doorbell/buzzer/intercom

metal street plates banging as cars go over them

garbage, construction, utility trucks

street-cleaning trucks

trucks backing up (“beep, beep, beep”)

construction zones

### *Animals*

friendly adult dogs and puppies

cats

birds

horses

deer

chickens, cows, sheep

any others as the opportunity arises

Of course, take the puppy with you to as many indoor places as you can. Playgroups with screened puppies are appropriate, as are visits to and from friendly, immunized adult dogs.

For outdoor socialization before vaccinations are complete:

1. Carry the puppy to a busy street corner and hold him or her in your arms. Have part of the pup's meal available for people to feed the puppy. Encourage them to handle him (gently!); they or you can give a treat.
2. Tote the pup around in a collapsible grocery cart with a comfy bed at the bottom: this way she or he can see the world from near ground level.
3. At the point when you feel comfortable with the balance between vaccination and socialization needs, take the puppy for walks. (Caution: no meetings with unknown dogs, even if their guardians say they're healthy, vaccinated, and friendly!)