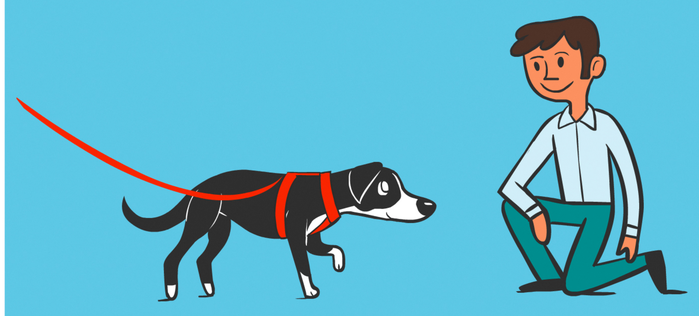
Socializing Your Dog

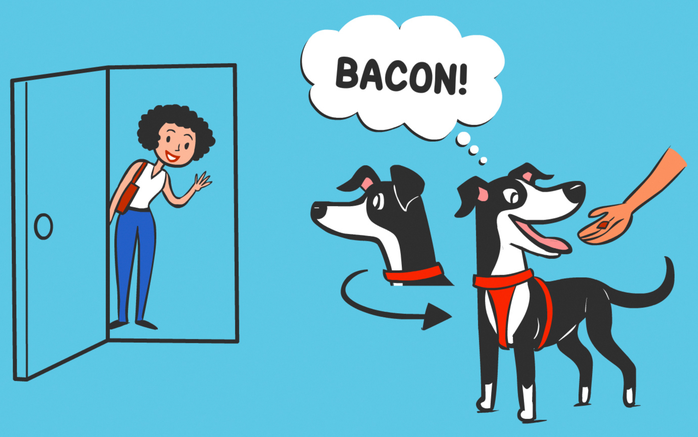
...refers to providing him with POSITIVE experiences with NEW THINGS. The best way to make sure your dog has great experiences is to include things he loves (like food or toys)

new people

Let your dog approach **at his own pace**, if and when he wants to.



Associate new people with **wonderful things.**

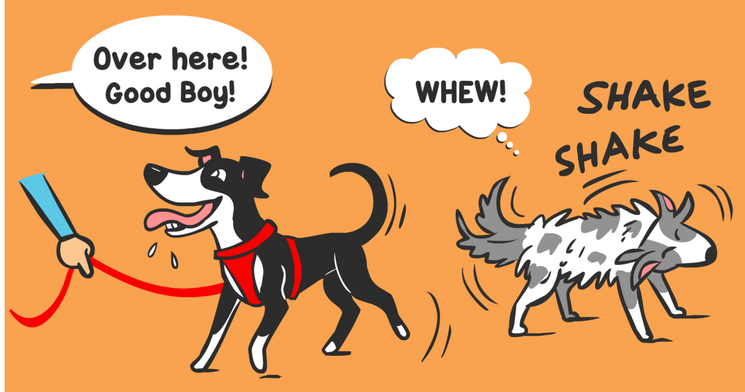


Make sure puppies are **gently & positively exposed** to different people.

other animals

Always check that the other animal is friendly & tolerant of dogs before you let your dog approach.

Teach your dog how to act politely around other animals by rewarding him for good behavior. Redirect him if he's pushy or overly excited.



If your adult dog doesn't want to play with unfamiliar dogs, that's okay. Adult people don't want to play with every other person we meet either!

new things & environments

To prevent **noise phobia** (eg, fear of thunder), feed your dog a tiny treat every time the noise happens.

Introduce young dogs to lots of **different surfaces.**

... plastic, rubber, snow, sand, etc.

Take rides in a boat, train car, or elevator.

Visit the vet & groomer's just for treats and petting.

Teach your dog to **enjoy wearing a muzzle** by making it into a "treat basket"

Avoid truly scary situations, such as fireworks.

Visit parking lots and other busy places just to watch the people, animals, vehicles, etc. and feed your dog treats.

Remember: **EXPOSURE alone isn't socialization!**

If your dog isn't having a great time, you could do more harm than good. Dogs don't just "get over" issues by themselves, so if your dog is shy, worried, or overly excited, leave the situation and work with a professional who can help both of you. If your dog is having a blast and is happy and comfortable, you're doing a great job of socializing him!

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