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Puppy Socialization Checklist Starting Age (in days) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
  
Puppy Names: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*Each day it is important to pick up the pups, admire them, talk to them and spend time with each one individually. Keep all interactions fun and positive. Any experience a puppy perceives as traumatic during this time are generalized and may affect them their entire life.*

**Neonatal period: Birth to 12 days**Puppy can't hear or see well, stays close to mother and littermates. These tasks should be done one after the other 1x a day for the first 12 days.

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| **Task** | **Age in Days** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** | **11** | **12** |
| Hold puppy perpendicular to the ground (straight up and down) for 3-5 seconds. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hold puppy so the back is resting in the palms of your hands and face is looking up at the ceiling. Hold for 3-5 seconds if tolerated. Stop immediately if the puppy starts to struggle. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hold puppy in one hand and gently stimulate between the toes for 3-5 seconds on each paw. Can use a Q-tip. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Transitional period: 13 to 20 days**Eyes open, begins to walk in a wobbly fashion. Puppy will begin to hear and will respond to taste and smell.

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| **Exposure to Items** Items should be changed out/rotated 3x a day.  Provide supervision if the mother is interested to prevent inappropriate chewing. | **Age in Days** | | | | | | | |
| **13** | **14** | **15** | **16** | **17** | **18** | **19** | **20** |
| Plastic bottles or containers (Empty and clean) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Toilet paper rolls |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Paper |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Face towels tied with a knot (Take from the shelter) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5-10 tennis balls |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dog toys |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other items of safe textures found in the home. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Introduce pups to new people. Make sure hands are clean and they have not had exposure to sick animals. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Place puppy on damp towel, belly down. Allow him to move away.  Wipe puppy dry when done and return to mother. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Other textures used: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Awareness period: 21 to 35 days**Puppy is able to use senses of sight and hearing. It is important not to overload them. Avoid radical changes in the environment. At this stage, place an open crate in their enclosure. Place bedding in the crate. This will help puppies to distinguish between sleep and play areas which will make housetraining later much easier.

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| **Tasks** | **Age in Days** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **21** | **22** | **23** | **24** | **25** | **26** | **27** | **28** | **29** | **30** | **31** | **32** | **33** | **34** | **35** |
| Place puppy on a new surface daily (concrete, linoleum, wood, carpet, etc.) Taking them two at a time will make it less stressful than individually. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Introduce mild auditory stimuli daily (a radio playing at a low volume, vacuum from another room, YouTube sounds such as birds, water, thunder, rain, wind, the ocean). |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Daily playtime with littermates. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Take two at a time for short car rides. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Put on their collars for short periods of time to acclimate them to wearing them. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| When they are active and running around, practice putting leashes on them and walking around your house. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Separate puppies from each other for 30 minutes to an hour to prepare them for separation. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **Additional Socialization** | **Age in Days** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **36** | **37** | **38** | **39** | **40** | **41** | **42** | **43** | **44** | **45** | **46** | **47** | **48** | **49** | **50 +** |
| Begin brushing fur-short strokes |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| People watch from window or TV: People in uniforms, children, bikes, etc. We want them to see the world. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Having a bath (make it fun!) being dried off |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hug puppies lightly |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Start giving puzzles |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Walking down stairs |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Start basic training |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |