

How soon should I bring my puppy out in Public?



Puppies are most open to new experiences such as different people, sounds and textures, before they are 16 weeks of age. Some recent studies suggest the social window closes even earlier than that. Most veterinarians caution you about allowing your puppy to go to many public places until their vaccinations are complete. Unfortunately, that is usually about 16 weeks of age. So, just about the time your puppy has completed its shots and deemed ready for the world, the prime social time is ending. In order to take advantage of the social window and follow your vets advice, you need to be creative. One simple thing to do is have the people come to you. Have a puppy party. Invite dog loving friends over to meet the new pup. Let your puppy approach your guests at its own speed. Involve lots of food rewards and toys. My guess is you, your puppy and your friends will love it. This gives your pup exposure to new and different people in the familiar home environment. This creates confidence and gives your dog a history of pleasant human interactions. Join our Indian Trail Facebook page. Owners can connect with other owners and you can set up your puppy play dates.

Meeting other dogs is more problematic. No dog parks for baby puppies. Actually, in my opinion, dogs parks should always be avoided. If you have friends with nice, puppy tolerant adult dogs, you can arrange for a play date. It is important that the pups dog experiences are positive. Be sure the canine friend you find really loves puppies. Play dates are also good if you know other puppy owners. That doesn't happen all that often. I have found most puppies regardless of breed play well together. Puppies need to develop social skills. Because puppies learn so much from each other, and socialization is so important, I highly recommend puppy classes. A clean controlled environment helps take the worry out of way. If you are located in the Manchester area, Tails U Win has great puppy classes.