



**1. YOUR DOG WILL BENEFIT GREATLY FROM EARLY, POSITIVE INTERACTIONS WITH AS MANY NEW PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE.**



Tip: Dogs can benefit from socialization at any time; however, it's best to socialize them during the first 12-16 weeks of life. He/she benefits the most during this window of time through positive, controlled interactions with new people.

**2. HELP YOUR DOG ACQUIRE HEALTHY SOCIAL HABITS THROUGH POSITIVE INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER FRIENDLY, HEALTHY/VACCINATED DOGS.**

Tip: Positive interactions only. It's not only about exposure, but positive, friendly, happy exposure to leave a lifetime impression that these things are good things. Be sure the dogs that your dog is playing with are friendly and well balanced dogs. Look at it as though your dog will learn play skills from the other dog.



**3. IF YOUR DOG PULLS ON-LEASH TOWARD OTHER DOGS, TEACH HIM/HER EARLY ON THAT IT'S MORE REWARDING TO FOCUS ON YOU THAN TO PULL TOWARD OTHERS.**

Tip: First, give him/her a treat when he/she pays attention to you. If you're introducing dogs for a play date, let the dogs' excitement taper off and have them get used to each other's presence before letting them interact. For example, first take the dogs on a walk side by side so they can get acquainted in a non-threatening way (a side-by-side greeting is preferable to a nose-to-nose greeting). If your dog is worried or scared to meet another dog, that's fine; you can try another day.



**4. YOUR DOG WILL GREATLY BENEFIT FROM LIVING INSIDE THE HOME WITH HIS/HER FAMILY.**

Tip: Your dog is a social creature who loves to be with his/her family. Dogs love to live inside with their people, which is great for reinforcing social structure and positive interactions with people. Bring your dog inside and enjoy him/her as part of your family.



**5. YOUNG PUPS CAN SOCIALIZE, TOO, AS LONG AS IT'S IN YOUR BACKYARD (NOT FRONT YARD) OR A FRIEND'S BACKYARD TO AVOID DISEASE.**

Tip: Dog parks and public areas where unknown dogs are have the potential to expose young pups to disease. Avoid walking on public streets and areas until your dog has had the 4-month final parvo vaccine. Until then, he/she can socialize in fun and safe ways, like taking a ride in the car, or sitting on a blanket outside a coffee shop—with plenty of treats, of course!

