Adopting a new puppy is exciting but comes with big responsibility. Alongside basic needs, appropriate socialization is vital to your pet’s development. Proper introduction to people, animals and places will help your puppy mature into a well-balanced and friendly dog.

**TIPS**

- Start socialization as a puppy to avoid later behavioral issues
  - 3-14 weeks old is ideal
- Keep the experience positive
- Reward with praise, treats or toys when making introductions
- Unless fully vaccinated, minimize exposure to public areas where there are many other dogs
- Avoid harmful objects and unfriendly pets
- Socialization location is important
  - **SAFE**
    - A quiet, comfortable place at your home
    - Home of friends and family with healthy pets
    - Puppy obedience classes with vaccinated dogs
  - **UNSAFE**
    - Dog parks
    - Pet stores
    - Crowded or noisy places
    - Busy sidewalks and streets
- Keep socialization as an ongoing part of your dog’s life

**SpringsVet.com**

333 Highway 290 E, Ste. 415
Dripping Springs, TX 78620

512.829.6140
It is optimal to expose your puppy to unfamiliar situations, places and objects they may encounter daily in order to train them to respond calmly.

**THESE EXPOSURES INCLUDE:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People</th>
<th>Varying ages, heights, genders, and ethnicities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pets</td>
<td>Other dogs, household pets such as cats, birds, and pocket pets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Places</td>
<td>Car, relatives’ homes, local streets, or safe outdoor areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objects</td>
<td>Clothing like hooded sweatshirts, hats, masks, sunglasses, boots, gloves</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cleaning devices such as brooms, vacuums, mops, trash cans, lawn tools</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vehicles such as trucks, cars, motorcycles, bicycles, skateboards, roller skates, wheelchairs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Surfaces like metal floors or grates, grass, cold or wet flooring</td>
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<tr>
<td>Experiences</td>
<td>Harsh noises like vacuuming, thunder, fireworks, loud vehicles, crying children</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grooming such as brushing, bathing, nail trimming, tooth brushing, eye and ear cleaning</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Veterinary visits including being weighed and examined</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Social gatherings with unfamiliar people, loud conversations, music, crowds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We offer behavioral counseling services that include puppy socialization.

*Schedule an appointment for your puppy today!*

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