



Puppy Socialization Classes

Socializing your new pup is one of the most important things you can do. Taking them to dog parks is not a safe way to socialize and often creates behavioral issues as the pup matures. We offer a safe environment for your pup to learn appropriate social skills and be comfortable around new dogs of all shapes and sizes.

This class will coach you in how best to be your pup's advocate and to set them up for success. In addition to dog-to-dog socialization, your pup will also be exposed to other people and activities that will become just part of a normal day for a puppy instead of a scary event.

Every Saturday (8-16 weeks old), 1:00-1:45 pm in Sonoma Humane Society's Training Room.

Every Sunday (4-6 months old), 12:00-12:45 pm in Sonoma Humane Society's Training Room.

Register at <http://sonomahumane.org/public-training/> Click on the "Puppy" tab!

Cost: \$15 per class

Please bring to class:

- Treats for your puppy
- Flat leash and collar or harness
- Proof of vaccinations (2 DH2PP required)

Please arrive on time for class!

To play or not to play:

In some circumstances it is in your pup's best interest for your puppy to spend time with you (in the presence of other pups) rather than playing with other pups. This would be for pups that are inappropriately matched for the group or pups that are extremely fearful and uncomfortable with other pups. As the pup adjusts to the situation or an ideal playmate is present, then the pup will be allowed to interact with others.

Good dog-2-dog play should appear to be balanced. You should see a give and take in the movement and energy of the interaction. The dog's facial expressions are relaxed, not tense. Tail carriage is neutral or low; not high or tucked. Ear carriage is relaxed; not pinned back or tensely forward. There are no wrinkles between the ears. No one dog is domineering the play and no one dog is always the one being targeted. The dogs take frequent breaks and check in with their people(ideally).

In play groups please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Be a AAA owner: Alert, Aware, Active
- Call your puppy out of play frequently or anytime the instructor asks you to do so.
- Always reward your puppy for paying attention to you!
- Do not use your cell phone in class.
- Maintain active supervision of your puppy at all times.
- Be sure your puppy gets out for potty breaks before, during, and after class.

Behaviors to interrupt:

- Group Chasing: generally ends up with one dog being targeted by a group and is not safe or fun for the one being chased.
- Be aware of puppies who are hiding under chairs or behind humans; this pup needs help.
- Pinning: one or more puppies pins and terrorizes another. Interrupt and distract other puppies.
- Rolling: especially large dogs rolling smaller dogs.
- Mobbing and/or Bullying: a group of pups gangs up on another.
- Any interaction that does not feel right.

Some signs that a puppy is scared and not having fun:

- Tucked tail; often accompanied by a roached back.
- Hiding under things or behind people or asking for help.
- Yelping
- Wide mouth pant
- Snarl
- Furrowed brow
- Whale Eye; whites of eye are show