

Early Socialization



Dogs thrive on consistency and patterns. If not socialized properly, they can become fearful or even aggressive when exposed to unfamiliar things as adults. Bordoodles particularly bond closely to their family and are highly intelligent so can “overthink” the unfamiliar. Socializing your dog young is critical to a well balanced Bordoodle!

Weighing the risks:

Statistically speaking, your puppy has a much greater risk of developing permanent behavior issues if not properly socialized then he has of contracting a disease while properly socializing. The “critical period” of socialization ends at 12 weeks as outlined in “Puppy Culture - the powerful first 12 weeks”

What is “proper” socializing?

Proper socializing is exposing your puppy to as many people, sounds, smells, other dogs/animals as possible in a positive way! This means your puppy is having a **positive** experience. Connecting these exposures to a feeling of joy, control, fun, and safety.

What to do:

Carry your puppy in your arms to meet people (being sure he is well rested, exercised, fed, and pottied). We carry scent free hand sanitizer with us for people to use prior to petting our puppy. Pushing your puppy in a cart/stroller with a blanket from home under him is another opportunity. Puppy socialization classes/play groups are wonderful with an experienced director who recognizes positive vs negative puppy interaction. Lastly, visits with fully vaccinated, healthy dogs that are “puppy tolerant” are excellent opportunities to take!

What to avoid:

Dog parks, vet clinic floors, busy dog friendly areas, highly populated - overwhelming places, dogs you don’t personally know, “pet elimination areas”, overly loud noises such as firework shows.