

Social Enrichment

Different than Socialization, Social enrichment refers to the encounters of different species/people the pup comes in contact with, within a different environment other than where the dog will live. For example, walking your dog at the dog park. New place, new animals, and new people provide a constant source of complex stimulation. While most of our pups encounters are limited due to under-developed immune systems, we try to expose them as they become a little older and start getting their shots. Our pups are exposed to several new people when they are younger, but as they get older and can venture outdoors safely, they get to meet people in a new setting. While they have known most of the people since birth, there is something different meeting them outside in a different environment. Our pups will also meet a few new dogs outside as well. Even just hanging out with their littermates helps them with social enrichment. At a later age 8-10 weeks, if still there, they will be exposed to other new animals like grouse. Some dogs who have never been exposed to a lot of new social aspects are very fearful of this encounter and others that have had much new stimulation show more signs of caution and curiosity. Each new place is different and cause new stimulation. This helps them to be a little more calmer when moving to a new place (fur-ever home). A well socialized dog should not become fearful (extreme for long periods of time), over stimulated, or aggressive when exposed to new people, dogs, places, or objects.