

Socialization and Infectious Disease Prevention You CAN Have Both!

Checklist for Primary Care Veterinarians

In-clinic Screening

- Physical Exam (every 3-4 weeks through 16-20 weeks of age)
- Adolescent check-up exam (8-10 months of age)
- Fecal screening (4 times in the first year minimum)
- FAS¹ Assessment (each visit) 1 Fear Free™ - Fear, Anxiety, Stress (FAS) Scale for in-clinic behavior/emotional state

Risk Assessment/discussion

- Anticipated dog interactions (boarding, daycare, dog parks, etc.)
- Lifestyle plans (hiking, camping, lakes/sand, car/air travel)
- Wildlife habitat exposure (on/off leash, location/geography)
- Confidence vs. fear levels around people, dogs, new things/environments
- History of behavioral disorders in known relatives

Vaccination - Core

- Distemper, Parvovirus, Adenovirus, Parainfluenza (minimum 4 weeks of age, booster every 3-4 weeks through 16-20 weeks of age)
- Leptospirosis (2024 addition to AAHA core vaccination guidelines)
- Rabies (minimum 12 weeks of age)

Vaccination - Non-core, selection based on risk assessment

- Bordetella (frequent non-household dog contact and/or facility requirements)
- Lyme (based on geographical location and risk assessment)
- Canine Influenza (based on geographical location, dogs in group settings, outbreak status, risk for severe illness (co-morbidities, brachycephalic breeds) and/or facility requirements)

Ectoparasite Prevention

- Flea prevention
- Tick prevention
- Heartworm prevention
- Mosquito repellent (based on risk assessment)

Endoparasite Prevention

- Ascarids
- Tapeworms
- Whipworms (based on fecal examinations if not on monthly preventative)



Socialization P.L.A.N.

People

- Men
- Women
- Children
- Height, stature, race

Ensure:

- Proper hand hygiene
- No recent sick/high risk dog exposure
- Puppy enjoys each interaction

Locations (as lifestyle plans dictate)

- Homes/apartments/condos
- Retail stores
- Vehicle travel
- Plane or boat travel
- Urban neighborhood
- Suburban neighborhood
- Sporting events
- Camping/hiking areas
- Puppy classes

Ensure:

- Proper hand hygiene
- No recent sick/high risk dog exposure
- Puppy enjoys each interaction
- No direct contact with ground if dog traffic is unknown (use slings/mats/strollers/etc.)
- Proper health/biosecurity policies

Animals

- Dogs
- Cats
- Other pets (per lifestyle plans)

Ensure:

- Appropriate dog social skills
- Proper adult-puppy corrections
- Puppy enjoys each interaction
- Current on preventive care
- No recent sick/high risk dog exposure
- Good health status

Novelty

- Wheeled objects
- Balls (rolling, bouncing)
- Mobility assistance tools
- Vacuum, broom, mop
- Appliances, hand tools
- Bikes, motorcycles, scooters
- Slippery, textured, uneven flooring
- Stairs
- Treats with sham medication

Ensure:

- Items introduced at a distance
- Puppy approaches at own pace
- Puppy enjoys the experience
- Sight before sound/movements

