

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)



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)

¹Fear Free™ - Fear, Anxiety, Stress (FAS) Scale for in-clinic behavior/emotional state

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

