

Adolescent Dog Scavenger Hunt

This scavenger hunt is about continuing your dog's exposure to the world in a positive way. Many of us work hard when our puppies are young to expose them during their "socialization period" but as our dogs head towards adolescence, we back off a bit – our dogs are bigger, displaying more adult behaviors, some would even say testing their boundaries a bit. Whether neutered or intact, they are undergoing both physical and behavioral changes as they move into adulthood. It's often easier for us to make our dogs' worlds smaller rather than continue to expand them through exposure to unfamiliar people, pets, objects and sounds. This often leads to what some behaviorists call "desocialization" – dogs once friendly with people and other animals and unconcerned by novel objects and sounds as puppies start to shy away or even show aggression when faced with them now.

This scavenger hunt is intended to help us continue to expand our dogs' exposure to the outside world in a positive way. But we don't want you to just expose your dog to these people, animals, objects, and sounds – we want you to create a positive experience related to these experiences with your dog. Negative exposure has the potential to be as bad (maybe worse?) than no exposure at all. Our goal is for quality experiences rather than just quantity or just exposure.

As you work through this list, work through at your dog's pace and ability level. If you come across something or someone that concerns your dog, go slow – when in doubt, take your dog out of a situation where you are concerned about their response.

And remember... this is about having fun with your dog! Take pictures to document your experiences – these are great keepsakes but can also help you go back and look at your dog's body language to see if they were as comfortable as you thought or maybe this is an area we need to continue to work.

Children:

- Infant
 - o Response:
- Girl between 2-5
 - o Response:
- Boy between 2-5
 - o Response:
- Small group of children between 2-5
 - o Quiet group of kids
 - Response:
 - o Active group of kids
 - Response:
 - o Group of kids with a ball
 - Response:
- Girl between the age of 6-10
 - o Response:
- Girl between the age of 11-17
 - o Response:
- Boy between the age of 6-10
 - o Response:
- Boy between the age of 11-17
 - o Response:
- Any of the above with a hat on, jacket on, backpack on
 - o Response:

Adults:

- Meet 10 different women (different skin tones preferable)
 - o Response:
- Meet 10 different men (different skin tones preferable)
 - o Response:
- Women with hat on (find as many hats as you can!)
 - o Response:
- Man with hat on (find as many different hats as you can!)
 - o Response:
- Someone greeting you without contact
 - o Response:
- Someone greeting you with a handshake or high five (or both!)
 - o Response:
- Someone greeting you with a hug
 - o Response:

Places:

- Petstore
 - o Response:
- Playground / Park
 - o Response:
- Vets office
 - o Response:
- Grooming salon
 - o Response:
- Other (other stores that might allow dogs like Home Depot)
 - o Response:

Surfaces:

- Walk on concrete
 - o Response:
- Walk on short grass
 - o Response:
- Walk through tall grass
 - o Response:
- Walk through gravel
 - o Response:
- Walk through sand
 - o Response:
- Walk through dirt
 - o Response:
- Walk on a metal surface
 - o Response:
- Walk on a wooden deck
 - o Response:
- Walk on hardwood flooring
 - o Response:
- Walk on tile flooring
 - o Response:
- Walk on carpet
 - o Response:
- Walk on vinyl
 - o Response:

Sounds

- High-pitched voices
 - o Loud
 - Response:
 - o Quiet
 - Response:
- Low-pitched voices
 - o Loud
 - Response:
 - o Quiet
 - Response:
- Music (different types, different volumes)
 - o Response:
- Motorcycle passing
 - o Response:
- Bus passing
 - o Response:
- Baby crying
 - o Response:
- Thunder
 - o Response:
- Sharp noise (like something being dropped on the floor)

Sights

- Person riding by on a bike
 - o Response:
- Person passing on rollerblades:
 - o Response:
- Car passing while dog on sidewalk
 - o Response:
- Person in a wheelchair
 - o Response:
- Person on crutches or cane
 - o Response:
- Opening of an umbrella
 - o Response:

Animals

- Dogs
 - o <10 lbs
 - o 10-30 lbs
 - o 30-60 lbs
 - o >60 lbs
- Cat
 - o Response:
- Caged bird
 - o Response:
- Caged small mammal
 - o Response:
- Caged reptile
 - o Response:

Other scavenger hunt resources:

- <http://www.scribd.com/doc/15670588/Puppy-Scavenger-Hunt>
- <http://www.livingwithkidsanddogs.com/socialization.html>
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