

Windrush Dogs For Life



New Owner & Puppy Socialisation Programme

Photocopy for use each week, tick each experience as you go along and each week evaluate all the charts together and address any gaps. The most critical period is up to twelve weeks so carry your puppy where he cannot be put down and get as many experiences as possible introduced gently without overwhelming the puppy by 12 weeks. Use small tasty treats (e.g. cooked chicken) to turn neutral experiences into positive ones.

Active, conscious socialisation should continue until the puppy is at least twelve months old, preferably eighteen months and for some breeds and individuals with specific needs, socialisation may need to continue longer.

Many aspects of the plan will happen daily, naturally and some will need to be sought out on a regular basis. Whether an experience should be daily or weekly or fortnightly is a matter of common sense plus assessment of what that puppy needs to know for his adult life. If gaps appear in your programme, look at the area and assess. For example if your puppy has had no experience of boats and it is winter and you intend to go sailing next summer, NOW is the time to get your puppy accustomed to boats, starting in dry dock. On the other hand if your puppy has had no experience of grooming parlours and is a whippet, you won't need to worry about that.

All dogs need to be socialised with dog educated children whether or not they live with them.



Daily Handling

All dogs, with the addition of many tasty treats, gently look in ears, mouth, between toes, under tail, between legs, stroke eyes, trim toenails.

Groom with soft brush, clean teeth with soft finger brush, clip claws with small clipper (ask vet if not confident)

Carry up and down stairs, in and out of car – Labrador size upwards carry until 6 months to protect growing skeleton.

Meet & Play With People 	Different surfaces 
Adults (men and women)	Wood (table perhaps)
Young adults	Carpet
Middle-aged	Pebbles/gravel
Elderly	Woodchips
Disabled/infirm	Grass (wet and long)
Loud, confident	Tile/lino

Different skin colours		Earth/mud	
Shy, timid		Tarmac	
Delivery people		Grates	
Joggers		Concrete	
Uniform; police etc		Puddles	
Hats/hoods/scarves		Pavement	
Beards, glasses, motorbike helmets etc		Sand	
Children		Transport	
Babies		Cars/vans	
Toddlers		Trains/buses	
Juniors		Boats	
 Other animals		 Play with Objects	
Dogs – adult, all shapes and sizes		Fluffy toys	Cardboard
Puppies, all shapes and sizes		Paper	Wooden toys
Cats		Fabric	Pop tins
Small pets		Big & small balls	Car keys
Chickens; ducks etc		Soft tuggy toys	Squeaky toys
Sheep, cows, horses etc			

Environments		Different noises (CDs available to introduce at low level first)	
Other people's houses		Doors slamming	
Shopping centre		Farm animals	
Parks/beaches etc		Big Lorries	
Outside school/play area		Doorbell	
Country walks		Children playing loudly	
Fete/car boot sale		Power boat/jet ski	
Pub/party/village hall		Lawnmowers & strimmer	
Slippery floors		Babies crying	
Vets		Applause/loud music	
Grooming parlour if appl.		Loud singing/shouting	
Boarding kennels		Pan dropping	
Streets from quiet to busy		Vacuum cleaners	
See (not chase) & hear from a distance initially moving objects			
Skateboards	Motorcycles	Squirrels etc	
Cars/vans/lorries	Lorries/tractors	Brooms	
Hoovers	Running cats	Bicycles	
Roller skates	Joggers	Joggers	

Challenges

Climb on, in & around box	See an umbrella in use
Step up and down (only 1 for big breeds)	Walk in the rain
Play hide and seek	Go through a small tunnel
Climb over obstacles	Practise different doorways
Experience balloons	Walk on a beach near calm sea
Climb over a log	See an umbrella in use
Be held on a low wobbly table	Sit in bath (no water)

Eat From Different Shaped Containers



Metal bowl	Cup	Wobbly bowl	China plate	Foil tray	Plastic bowl
By hand often to build trust			Home alone toys (Kongs; Buster Cubes etc)		

Play games with familiar people and family dogs, then expand

Retrieve	Tug	Gentle play wrestling	Chase
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Leave alone

Safely from family and other animals, 2 – 45 minutes, 12 times per week. Vary the time of day, sometimes in the dark, build length gradually. Begin in crate with company, and settle with home alone toys before company leaves.