

## **Leash Skills**

Introduce your puppy to good leash skills, using a loose leash, being comfortable wearing a harness. Once your puppy has completed 2 of their initial vaccinations you can start local walks but avoid grass and areas where other animals may have toileted.

## **Dress Up**

Introduce your puppy to different styles of clothing, hats, umbrellas, jackets, helmets. Get the people in your bubble involved in some character acting, and allow your puppy to explore these new “people” in a safe and positive environment

## **Alone Time**

This is essential to teach your puppy to be happy when alone in preparation for future when people return to work. Crate training is a good start and setting them up alone with a yummy treat so you can leave them alone for increasing periods of time.

## **Basic Training Skills**

Build a relationship with your puppy through basic skills Sit, Stay, Down, Come, Leave It, Nose Target and Find It. Hide and Seek, High Five, Tug games (remember to stop and start the game, but you don't need to “win”)

## **Car Fun**

Spend some time in the car, helping puppy to be comfortable getting in and out, turning on the engine and a few short trips up and down the driveway

## **Surfaces and Objects**

Incorporate many different walking surfaces to learn about. Create an experience walk for them in your back yard, wood blocks, concrete, grass, stairs, ramps, tiles and carpet. Expand this physical world with a string of other objects such as flapping flags, plastic bottles or bags waving in the wind.

## **Handling**

Regular sessions of handling to encourage your puppy to enjoy being touched, eyes, ears, mouth, feet, tail. This should be a relaxed encounter paired with treats to allow future vet exams and grooming.

## **Enrichment Toys**

Entertain them to keep them occupied with treat dispensing toys or games that encourage them to explore and be rewarded for self-initiated play. Rotate these toys each day. Use cardboard boxes, rolled up towels or snuffle mats, there are plenty of options at home to invent your own. (Ensure your puppy is not going to ingest these items though and remove them once the game is over!)

## **Sounds of Society**

Play the sounds of life to them including appliances, cars, trains, whistles bikes, birds, dogs barking and more. Allow them to experience these paired with positive interactions such as treats or games.  
e.g. Sounds Sociable Audio download

# **Puppy Socialisation during COVID-19**



## **Online Training**

Classes are now available for many new puppy owners for weekly support and training tips. If you have questions seek help! Choose a qualified and positive trainer using scientifically supported training methods.

[www.apdtnz.co.nz](http://www.apdtnz.co.nz)

[www.companionanimals.nz/canz-accredited-professionals](http://www.companionanimals.nz/canz-accredited-professionals)

