

# Pet Tip of the Week

[www.houssennet.nb.ca/dogworld.htm](http://www.houssennet.nb.ca/dogworld.htm)

## Socialization:

Most puppies and dogs are naturally social type creatures, meaning that they enjoy being out and about mingling with other dogs or people. This does not necessarily mean that the puppy or dog will automatically run up to every stranger or unfamiliar dog and become instant buddies. With some pups or dogs, this may take some time. Allow the puppy to get acquainted at his own speed. Pushing him onto the stranger usually has the opposite effect and even can create a permanent phobia with that person or situation.

If you notice that your dog is reacting timidly with a person, take notice if they are wearing a hat, sunglasses, a beard, or have been smoking. Even the scent of their clothing could cause the pup to react differently. Perhaps they have a dog or cat at home and their scent is all over the person. If your dog is not familiar with these situations, he could react out of character.



The solution for these fears is simple socialization.

Whether you have a puppy or a mature dog, get him out of his home turf. Expose him (on leash) to all kinds of people, animals and situations. A park is a great place to start.

There are nature trails with all kinds of tiny animals, birds and different scents present as well as people. The sounds, smells and movement all help your canine to adjust to our human world.

An un-socialized dog is usually one who ends up being a timid, unhappy dog, never really trusting in his ability to deal with ordinary life situations. Get him out, get him going, have fun with your dog. He longs for this socialization and needs your courage and patience to help him achieve this.

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