

## Socialising Hints & Tips

- Teach your dog the command "say hello" when meeting new dogs and let them sniff each other for about 3 seconds before calling your dog away - this will give them time to take the other dog's scent, but prevent a skirmish from starting
- Try not to pull on your dog's lead when they meet another dog as this will alter your dog's body posture and may give the wrong signal to the other dog
- Socialise your dog with a new dog **every day** to keep them well-behaved around other dogs
- If your dog barks at another dog do not stroke or touch your dog to try and "comfort" it - your dog will assume you are supporting its verbal attack on the other dog
- If you have a fearful dog, get help from a reputable trainer or behaviour specialist or you could read the very excellent book by Nicole Wilde called "Help For Your Fearful Dog" - see <http://phantompub.com/books.htm> which is also available as a dvd.
- Don't assume that you can socialise your puppy with 2 or 3 other dogs in your street and that's enough. It isn't. Socialising is a lifetime thing, not just for puppyhood!
- Carry your pup around prior to completion of inoculations so that it can meet other dogs - just bump noses of dogs that you deem to be of sound temperament and in good health
- Invite people who have healthy dogs/pups into your home to socialise, but make sure people leave their shoes at the front door
- Get your pup out **as soon as possible** to puppy socialising sessions and training classes

**Lack of socialisation during the first few months of life  
is very hard to correct in an older dog**