



# Car Socialization



One of the first steps we can take to help our dogs become relaxed in a public location. The purpose of this is to give humans and dog a chance to begin relaxing while training in a contained space. Practicing this will help lower your dog's reactivity to normal human movements and sounds.

- 1 Drive with your dog to a store with a busy parking lot, park as close to the doors as possible
- 2 Once parked, simply people watch
- 3 Whenever a person walks by, no matter how your dog responds, give them a high value treat
- 4 Use the word "friend" whenever a person walks by, make sure to use a happy tone of voice

When a dog is presented with a trigger (the person walking by) and always receives a happy thing (the treat) they will begin to associate it with happy things instead of scary things. Make sure to keep an eye on your dog's body language to prevent them from becoming overwhelmed.

**Recommended Training: 3 times a week for at least a month**

**Training Session Length: 5-15 minutes each session**

**Location Ideas: Kroger, Walmart, Mall**