

## Puppy Raising

# Observing traffic

### Quick links

By clicking on each link below, you will be directed to the area within this guidance to support that area of learning.

[Why](#)[Knowing your puppy](#)[Managing for success](#)[Teaching foundations](#)[Being a partnership](#)



## Why

With their future partner, your puppy will go to lots of different environments and will encounter light and heavy traffic, different vehicles, and different types of transport. Being relaxed and calm around the noise and sight of passing and oncoming traffic and transport gives their partner the freedom to go wherever they choose.



## Knowing your puppy

- Your puppy will often hear traffic before they see it approach. If the noise they hear comes from behind, or from the side, the experience can be overwhelming for them. If they can see the traffic, it may also trigger a desire to chase, or it may scare them because it is moving, loud, and smells too.
- Think about how your puppy has responded to other large sounds and objects before you start introducing traffic.



## Managing for success

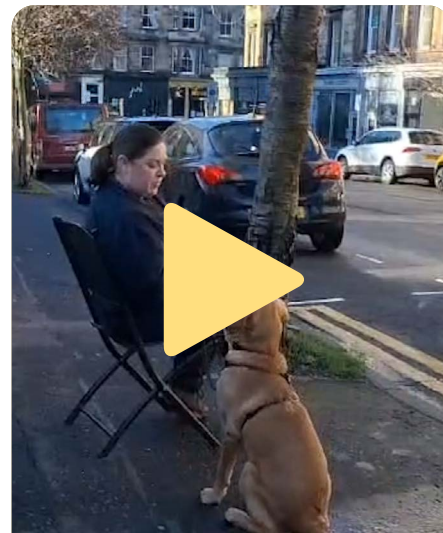
- Introduce your puppy to the sounds of traffic from the comfort of their own home either from having windows open to hear traffic passing outside or from sound clips. Please read the document [Sounds](#) for more information.
- Try to introduce your puppy to quiet roads first, building up to busier roads.
- Distance is your friend. Stand or walk near the building line of the pavement rather than next to the road.



## Teaching foundations

### Stage 1: Make positive associations

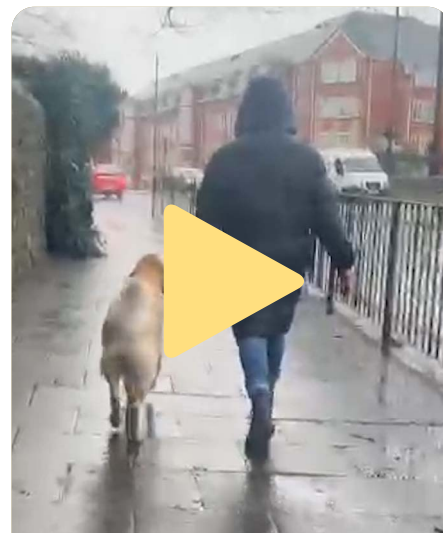
- Stand outside your front door in a position that is safe for both you and your puppy to watch traffic, either holding your puppy, or if suitable with them on the lead next to you. place your puppy safely on the floor and
- Give your puppy a chew or Kong © whilst the traffic sounds are happening.
- Shortly after your puppy finishes their chew or Kong © take them back inside.



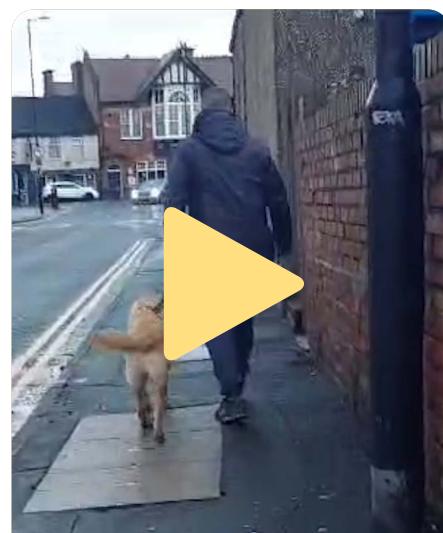
**Video: Stage 1  
traffic observation.**

### Stage 2: Walk down the road

- Either with your puppy in your arms or if suitable (vaccination status and level of risk in the area) on the ground, walk down the road keeping closer to the wall than the road.
- Let your puppy watch the traffic for as long as they want to.
- When they are at the stage where they are on the ground, let your puppy;
  - Choose the distance between themselves and the traffic.
  - Sniff.



**Video: Stage 2  
traffic observation.**



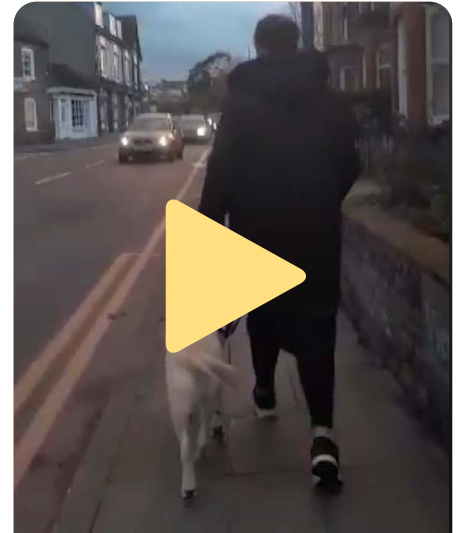
**Video: Stage 3  
traffic observation.**

## Progression

- When your puppy is comfortable you can progress on to busier roads and intensities of traffic.
- Decrease distance between your puppy and traffic.

### Being a partnership

- Monitor your puppy for signs they are uncomfortable (such as lip licking, yawning, shying their head away, ears back) then move them further away from the traffic.
- There is no need to rush.
- Continue to build positive experiences throughout your puppy's development.
- If there is a loud or unexpected event that could or does startle them pair this sound with rewards.
- Make sure your puppy has regular breaks for play and to allow them to consolidate their learning.



**Video: Stage 4  
traffic observation.**



**Take your time introducing your puppy. The sights, sounds and smells of traffic can easily become overwhelming if rushed.**