



*Lydia  
& Zep*

# Welcome to The Canine Coven

Hi, I'm Lydia from The Canine Coven, a dog trainer with over a decade of experience working with dogs, helping puppies and their owners build positive, lasting habits.

At The Canine Coven, I focus on building confidence through training with fun, reward-based techniques to make learning easy and enjoyable for both you and your pup.

This free socialisation checklist is the perfect tool to help you give your puppy the best start in life! It's designed to guide you through introducing your puppy to new sights, sounds, people, and environments in a calm and positive way. By socialising properly and calmly, you'll ensure your puppy experiences a variety of situations safely, helping them grow into a confident, well-rounded dog.



**Want to train with me? Check the website  
and socials for the next available Puppy  
or Middle School course!**

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# SOCIALISATION



Think of socialisation not as simply "showing" your puppy new things, but as helping them feel comfortable and relaxed around different environments, teaching them to ignore distractions. For example, taking your puppy to a coffee shop where they become overly excited or stressed can leave them with a negative impression of that place. Instead, focus on practicing basic training in new environments to show your puppy that these places are no big deal. This approach helps habituate them to their surroundings, building their confidence and calmness.

By introducing your puppy to a wide variety of experiences calmly, such as new sounds, textures, situations, and environments during their early development, you're preparing them to handle unexpected or unusual scenarios as an adult with confidence and ease. They'll be more likely to remain calm and composed because they've learned how to navigate similar experiences.

Using your socialisation checklist can be a helpful tool to ensure you're covering all the bases, giving your puppy the best chance to thrive in any situation they encounter later in life.



# SOCIALISATION

## CHECKLIST

### HANDLING

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Checking the ears                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Holding feet & nails  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Checking mouth/teeth                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Gently pinching skin on neck<br>(used to neck sensations for leads etc) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hold & check nose                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Gently pulling on collar  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Checking eyes/eyelids                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Wearing a slip lead (if you ever<br>need it in emergencies)             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Putting on a harness                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Trying on coats/jumpers   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trying on a muzzle<br>(for emergencies) |  |

### PEOPLE

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Women   | <input type="checkbox"/> Men                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Different ethnicities                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> People wearing big coats       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> People in high visibility<br>clothes                    | <input type="checkbox"/> People with large beards       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> People in hats/helmets                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> People with glasses/sunglasses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> People with canes/walking<br>sticks                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Children (be careful!)         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> People playing outdoor<br>sports (football, tennis etc) | <input type="checkbox"/> People exercising in park      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Loud people (eg children<br>playing on park)            | <input type="checkbox"/> Joggers                        |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Postman                        |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Large crowds of people         |

### DOGS

Please make sure you aren't encouraging your pup to go up to dogs on walks, try and set up controlled situations.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dogs of similar size | <input type="checkbox"/> Playful dogs                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Large dogs           | <input type="checkbox"/> Unfamiliar dogs (be careful) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small dogs           | <input type="checkbox"/> Dogs on lead                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Well behaved dogs    | <input type="checkbox"/> Dogs off lead                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Groups of dogs       | <input type="checkbox"/> Dogs inside                  |

### OTHER ANIMALS

Be careful letting your pup go up to other animals, keep a good distance

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cats                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Horses                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Livestock                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Birds                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housepets (rabbits/hamsters) | <input type="checkbox"/> Fish ponds (be careful!) |

## ENVIRONMENT

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cold floors    | <input type="checkbox"/> Hard floors                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wooden floors  | <input type="checkbox"/> Slippy floor (marble, glass)     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete       | <input type="checkbox"/> Stairs                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Metal surfaces | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor stairs (metal and stone) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wet grass      | <input type="checkbox"/> Beach                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mud            |   |

## SOUNDS

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dogs barking         | <input type="checkbox"/> People shouting          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Babies crying        | <input type="checkbox"/> Thunder                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fireworks            | <input type="checkbox"/> Alarms (car/house alarm) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Doorbells & knocking | <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency sirens         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Loud traffic         | <input type="checkbox"/> Loud roadworks           |

## OUTDOORS

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cars                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Buses                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lorries                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Motorbikes                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycles                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Skateboards                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prams                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Shopping trolleys             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recycling bins in street | <input type="checkbox"/> Binbags in street             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Road signs               | <input type="checkbox"/> Street crossings              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Street & road bollards   | <input type="checkbox"/> Gates & fences                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trees & logs             | <input type="checkbox"/> Plants & flowers (be careful) |

## HOUSEHOLD

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pots & pans               | <input type="checkbox"/> Balloons                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blankets/rugs being moved | <input type="checkbox"/> Bins                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mops/brooms               | <input type="checkbox"/> TV (pictures and noises) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Musical instruments       | <input type="checkbox"/> Fireplaces               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rearranging furniture     | <input type="checkbox"/> Getting in the bath      |

## NEW PLACES

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Busy city streets                | <input type="checkbox"/> Car Park  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Country Roads                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Town Centre   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dog friendly cafe/shops          | <input type="checkbox"/> Shopping centre (open or dog friendly)                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dog groomers                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Pet shops   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vets                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Dog friendly outdoor events<br>(farmers markets, dog shows etc) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friends/family home &<br>gardens |  |

Tick off each thing once your puppy has managed to explore it calmly. Excited or nervous responses require further training, encourage calm interactions before it is checked off.

Use YouTube to socialise your puppy to sounds, find a “dog socialisation playlist”, play it low around the house and get them used to hearing varied and different noises. Keep the sound low and slowly turn it up over time.

There are 100's of playlists you can use for free.

Space for personal notes of things your dog would benefit from the most, prioritise in order of importance according to your pup

