

Canine Good Citizen Test

The Canine Good Citizen (CGC) test is a good first step in opening the door to many other AKC titles! This test is a great goal for owners to work towards as it covers numerous exercises applicable to every day dog ownership. Completion of the test aids in those who strive for their dog to become a therapy dog as well as reduces the requirements for the dog to earn their AKC Novice Trick Dog title! In addition to the basic CGC test, AKC offers two additional tests which cover higher level skills in higher distraction environments. For a dog to earn AKC title, they simply need to be registered with AKC as a purebred or canine partner (mixed breed).

Along with this title comes specific requirements of the handler and the dog to help shape a well-rounded team! As an owner there are some responsibilities you must pledge to as well as some important equipment needed for success.

Owner Pledge

1. I will be responsible for my dog's health needs.
 - a. Routine vet appointments
 - b. Adequate nutritional diet & daily exercise
 - c. Regular grooming/bathing
2. I will be responsible for my dog's safety.
 - a. On-leash whenever in public
 - b. Proof of identification (name tag, microchip, etc.)
 - c. Provide supervision between dog with children
3. I will not allow my dog to infringe on the rights of others.
 - a. Never let them run loose, off-leash in neighborhood/public
 - b. Not allowing nuisance behaviors (i.e. barking)
 - c. Properly dispose of dog's waste
4. I will be responsible for my dog's quality of life.
 - a. Understanding the benefits of training
 - b. Play and give attention to your dog
 - c. Committing to the ownership a dog

Equipment

- Flat collar
- 6-foot leash
- Poop bags



Animal Matters Training & Swim

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Test Items

1. Accepting a Friendly Stranger
 - a. Evaluator approaches, but does not touch the dog, and exchanges pleasantries with the owner
 - b. Dog must not jump or show fear towards the evaluator
2. Sitting Politely for Petting
 - a. Evaluator approaches handler and dog
 - b. Dog must allow petting from the evaluator & must not show shyness or jump
 - c. Handler may ask for a position for the dog to stay in while evaluator approaches/pets the dog
3. Appearance and Grooming
 - a. Evaluator inspects dog, combs or brushes lightly, examines ears and each front foot
 - b. Dog must remain calm while evaluator handles different body parts (no aggression can be shown)
4. Out for a Walk (Walking on a Loose Leash)
 - a. Handler takes dog on a short walk to demonstrate walking on a loose lead
 - b. Walk must include right turn, left turn, about turn (180 degree turn) and a stop
 - c. Owner is allowed to use cues such as the dog's name or walking cues as they would on a normal walk (i.e. heel, let's go, with me, etc.)
5. Walking Through a Crowd
 - a. Demonstrates the dog can move about politely in public crowds
 - b. Handler and dog will walk around and pass several people close-by (the evaluator and two others)
 - c. Dog may show causal interest but not jump up or pull towards members of the crowd
 - d. Owner is allowed to use cues as in Test Item #4
6. Sit, Down, & Stay
 - a. Handler cues sit
 - b. Handler cues down
 - c. Handler cues stay (dog can be in stand/sit/down), walks to the end of a 20 foot line, and returns
 - i. Dog must remain in original position until handler's return
7. Coming When Called
 - a. Handler walks 10 feet away then cues the dog to come
 - b. Dog must immediately return to handler
 - c. Evaluator can hold the dog while the owner walks 10 feet away (no stay required)



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Test Items Cont'd

8. Reaction to Another Dog
 - a. Owner & dog will walk parallel to another owner & dog pair, pausing in the middle to exchange pleasantries
 - b. Owner can ask for a sit from their dog while talking with the other owner
 - c. Dog must not bark or show extreme interest in the other dog/owner
 - d. A gate will be placed between each team to eliminate any risk of greeting
9. Reaction to Distraction
 - a. Evaluator presents two different distractions (dropping clipboard or brush, closing door, rolling cart, etc.) and dog must not panic or show aggression
 - b. Dog may startle but must recover quickly
10. Supervised Separation
 - a. Owner goes out of sight for three minutes while dog is held on a 6-ft. leash by the evaluator
 - b. Dog is allowed to show awareness that the owner is out of sight but must not excessively whine, bark, or show other anxious behaviors
 - c. Evaluator is allowed to give comfort talking to the dog or giving the dog pets but must remain minimal (i.e. cannot last the whole 3-minute interval)

Treats are not allowed while testing the items. However, owners are allowed to warm up each behaviors beforehand with treats. Once evaluator states the test for the item has become, treats must not be on the owner's body. Owners are allowed to have their dog in a harness and utilize markers as needed. One test item may be retested if the dog does not perform the skill. If more than one test item fails to be completed, the test has to be retaken on a different day.

If you are interested in taking the CGC test, reach out today to get the test scheduled. We can also work on and warm up skills through private lessons to ensure your dog is ready for the test.



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