

The Ten Tests for the AKC Canine Good Citizen Certification

At all times, except for the separation test, you may talk to your dog and praise and encourage h/her. You may not reprimand or correct your dog during any test. Food and toys are not allowed during the tests.

- 1. Accepting a friendly stranger:** Your dog must allow a neutral, friendly stranger to approach you and h/her and speak to you in a natural, everyday tone. Your dog may not show aggression or shyness and should hold a position by your side, not jumping at or on the person.
- 2. Sitting politely for petting:** Your dog must allow a neutral, friendly stranger to pet on the head and body without showing aggression, shyness or defensive behavior. The dog should appear to be under control during the exercise without excessive coaching by the guardian.
- 3. Appearance and Grooming:** Your dog must welcome being groomed and examined by a stranger and not show aggression or shyness. The evaluator will pick up each foot, examine the ears and run a brush over your dog. You should not have to apply restraint or force your dog to accept handling.
- 4. Out for a walk:** Your dog must be able to walk beside you on either side you want on a slack leash. You will be asked to make a right turn, a left turn, a 180 degree turn and some halts. Your dog should not be straining at the leash so it is pulled tight. An occasional tightening of the leash is acceptable.
- 5. Walking through a crowd:** Your dog will have to walk with you through several people milling about. They may look unusual or have objects in their hands or on their bodies. Your dog must demonstrate the ability to walk with you without over exuberance, shyness or resentment.
- 6. Sit and Down on command/Staying in place:** This test is a demonstration of the dog's level of training. You will be asked to sit your dog, down your dog and leave the dog in a stay while you go to the end of a 20' leash. The dog must remain in place until the guardian returns.
- 7. Coming when called:** Your dog will be on a 20' long line and you will be asked to leave your dog and go to the end of the line. You may tell your dog to stay or wait. The evaluator will assist if your dog tries to follow you. You will turn and call your dog. You may use body language and encouragement. Your dog should come to you, not avoid you or try to get around you.
- 8. Reaction to another dog:** This test shows that your dog can behave politely around other dogs. You and your dog and another handler and dog will approach each other from a distance of about 20', stop, shake hands, exchange pleasantries and continue on. Your dog may show mild interest in the other dog but may not go toward the other dog.

9. Reaction to distractions: This test demonstrates that the dog is confident at all times when faced with common distracting situations. Two distractions will be presented, one visual and one auditory. Your dog may show casual interest and may appear startled, but should not panic and pull at the leash to get away. You may talk to your dog and give encouragement, instructions and praise.

10. Supervised Separation (3 minutes): This test demonstrates that your dog can be left in the presence of a person and will maintain h/er training and good manners. The dog does not have to stay in position, but may not bark, whine, howl or panic. This is usually the test that separates the dogs from the puppies.

It is a good idea to spend some time practicing for the test in distracting situations. Your local pet food stores or dog parks are good places to practice sit stays and meeting people and other dogs under control. You can usually find nice dog people who are willing to help you set up situations where you can train for these tests. We look forward to testing you for the CGC Certification and wish you luck.

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