

## **AKC Canine Good Citizen Test: Evaluation Criteria**

**Will pass:** Throughout the test, handlers may talk to and praise their dog. Dogs should remain on leash at all times. Handlers are allowed to say a command more than once. Handlers can encourage their dog throughout the testing process. Dogs should remain calm and confident throughout testing process. Training should be fun; happy dogs are ideal!

**Will not pass:** Treats and training aides are not allowed during the test. Handlers may not use corrections or force for the dog to complete the desired behavior. Dogs may not relieve themselves during the test. Dogs will not pass if they are overly excited, overly fearful or overly aggressive at any point during the testing process.

### **#1 Accepting a Stranger**

Demonstrates that your dog will allow a friendly stranger to approach him and speak to you in a natural, everyday situation.

#### **Evaluation Criteria**

**Will pass:** the dog should remain calmly at your side during the entire interaction

**Will not pass:** the dog shows signs of resentment, aggression or shyness; jumps up or lunges forward; requires excess corrections

### **#2 Sitting Politely for Petting**

Demonstrates that your dog will allow a friendly stranger to touch him while he is out in public with you.

#### **Evaluation Criteria**

**Will pass:** the dog should appear to be under control throughout the exercise; the dog is allowed to stand up, move slightly forward, appear happy

**Will not pass:** the dog shows signs of shyness or resentment, struggles and pulls away to avoid petting, lunges, rushes or jumps toward the evaluator

### **#3 Appearance and Grooming**

Demonstrates that your dog will welcome being groomed and examined by a veterinarian groomer or one of your friends. This test also demonstrates the owner's care, concern and sense of responsibility.

#### **Evaluation Criteria**

**Will pass:** evaluator must determine that a veterinarian or groomer could easily examine the dog; the dog must appear to be in healthy condition (i.e., proper weight, clean, healthy and alert)

**Will not pass:** the dog pulls away, squirms excessively or acts aggressively towards the evaluator

## **#4 Out for a Walk**

Demonstrates that you are in control of your dog when walking your dog on leash.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

**Will pass:** the dog is attentive to you, responds to your movement and change of direction

**Will not pass:** the dog strains at the leash, sniffs the floor excessively, doesn't walk along with you and/or is totally inattentive to you

## **#5 Walking Through a Crowd**

Demonstrates that your dog can move about politely in pedestrian traffic and is under control in public places.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

**Will pass:** the dog may show mild interest in crowd but should remain on a loose leash; you may talk to, praise and encourage your dog

**Will not pass:** the dog strains at the leash, jumps on people or appears over excited; the dog attempts to go to people in crowd; the dog tries to hide or shows signs of shyness; the dog appears aggressive

## **#6 Sit/Down and Stay in Place**

Demonstrates that the dog has training and will respond to the handler's commands to sit and down, and will remain in the place commanded by the handler. The dog needs to 1) sit on command and 2) down on command then, 3) stay in a sit or down until evaluator signals you to release the dog.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

**Will pass:** the dog responds to commands sit and down within a reasonable period of time; the dog stays in the same place until evaluator tells you to release him

**Will not pass:** you use physical force to put the dog into position; the dog does not go into position after reasonable period of time; you use the leash to pull the dog into position

## **#7 Coming When Called**

Demonstrates that your dog will come when you call him.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

**Will pass:** the dog must come to you on his own when you call him; you may use encouraging tones, bend down to call the dog, use hand gestures, repeat command twice

**Will not pass:** the dog does not come after two or three attempts; you pull on leash



## **#8 Reaction to Another Dog**

Demonstrates that your dog can behave politely around other dogs.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

**Will pass:** the dog may sit or remain standing, move slightly toward the other dog or person or stretch the neck to sniff

**Will not pass:** the dog attempts to go to the other person or dog; the dog jumps on the other person or dog; the dog turns around and begins pulling toward other dog or person as you walk away

## **#9 Reaction to Distractions**

Demonstrates that your dog is calm and confident at all times when faced with distracting situations.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

**Will pass:** the dog may show casual interest and seem slightly startled (jumps slightly, walk forward slightly to investigate, bark once); you may talk to the dog and/or give commands such as "sit" or "watch me"

**Will not pass:** the dog panics, pulls at the the leash to get away, relieves themselves out of fear, barks more than once, growls or lunges at distraction

## **# 10 Supervised Separation**

Demonstrates that your dog can be left with a trusted person and will maintain his training and good manners. Timed for 3 minutes.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

**Will pass:** the dog may look for you, change positions or move around as long as he doesn't behave stressed or agitated

**Will not pass:** the dog continually barks, whines or howls; the dog pants or shows other signs of stress; the dog pulls on leash to get away

