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## **CGC / THERAPY DOG PREP HOMEWORK**

### **WEEK #1**

THE AKC CANINE GOOD CITIZENSHIP TEST (CGC): The purpose of the Canine Good Citizen program is to ensure that our dog is a respected member of the community; trained to act mannerly in the home, in public places, and in the presence of other dogs. The CGC Program welcomes both pure-bred and mixed-breed dogs of all ages. All dogs who pass all 10 items of the test receive a certificate from the AKC. If your dog doesn't pass all 10 items, they will fail the test.

#### **TEST 1: ACCEPTING A FRIENDLY STRANGER:**

The dog will allow a friendly stranger to approach it and speak to the handler in a natural, everyday situation. The evaluator walks up to the dog and handler and greets the handler in a friendly manner, ignoring the dog. The evaluator and handler shake hands and exchange pleasantries. The dog must show no sign of resentment or shyness and ideally holds position.

#### **TEST 2: SITTING POLITELY FOR PETTING:**

The dog will allow a friendly stranger to touch it while it is out with its handler. With the dog sitting at the handler's side the evaluator pets the dog on the head and body. The handler may talk to the dog. The dog may stand in place as it is petted but not show shyness or resentment.

#### **TEST 3: APPEARANCE AND GROOMING**

The dog will permit someone as in a veterinarian, groomer or friend, to handle and groom the dog. This demonstrates the owner's care, concern and sense of responsibility. The evaluator inspects the dog to determine if it is clean and groomed. The dog must appear to be in healthy condition (i.e., proper weight, clean, healthy and alert). The handler should supply the comb or brush commonly used on the dog. The evaluator then softly combs or brushes the dog, lightly examines the ears and gently picks up each front foot. It is not necessary for the dog to hold a specific position during the examination, and the handler may talk to the dog throughout.

#### **TEST 4: OUT FOR A WALK ON A LOOSE LEAD**

The handler should be in control of the dog. The dog may walk on either side of the handler, need not be perfectly aligned with the handler, and may or may not sit at each halt. The dog's position should show the dog responds to the handler's movements and change in direction. The evaluator may use a pre-plotted course or may direct the handler/dog team by issuing commands. The course should have a right turn, left turn, and an about turn with at least one stop in between and another at the end. The handler may talk to the dog, offer praise, and give quiet commands.

## **WEEK #2**

### **TEST 5: WALKING THROUGH A CROWD**

The dog should move about politely in pedestrian traffic while under control in public places. The dog and handler walk around and pass close to at least three people. The dog may show some interest in the strangers but should continue to walk with the handler without over-exuberance, shyness or resentment. The handler may talk to the dog and encourage or praise the dog throughout the test. The dog should not jump on anyone or strain on the leash.

### **TEST 6: SIT AND DOWN ON COMMAND AND STAYING IN PLACE**

The dog will respond to the handler's commands to sit, down, and stay in the place. Prior to this test, the dog's leash is replaced with a 20 feet lead. The handler may take a reasonable amount of time and use more than one command to get the dog to sit and then down. The handler may not force the dog into position but may touch the dog to offer gentle guidance. When instructed by the evaluator, the handler tells the dog to stay and walks to the length of the line, turns and returns to the dog at a natural pace. The dog must remain in the place in which it was left (it may change position) until the evaluator instructs the handler to release the dog.

### **TEST 7: COMING WHEN CALLED**

The dog should come when called by the handler. The handler will walk 10 feet from the dog, turn to face the dog, and call the dog with encouragement for success. Handlers may choose to tell dogs to "stay" or "wait" or walk away with no instructions to the dog.

### **TEST 8: REACTION TO ANOTHER DOG**

The dog can behave politely around other dogs. Two handlers and their dogs approach each other from a distance of about 20 feet, stop, shake hands and say hello before continuing on for another 10 feet. The dogs should show no more than casual interest or go to the other dog or its handler.

### **TEST 9: REACTION TO A DISTRACTION**

The dog is confident at all times when faced with common distracting situations. The evaluator will select and present two distractions such as dropping a chair, rolling a crate dolly past the dog, having a jogger run in front of the dog, or dropping a crutch or cane. The dog may express natural interest, curiosity and appear slightly startled. The dog should not panic, try to run away, show aggressiveness, or bark. The handler may talk to the dog throughout the exercise.

### **TEST 10: SUPERVISED SEPERATION**

The dog can be left with a trusted person and will maintain training and good manners. Evaluators will say something like, "Would you like me to watch your dog?" and then take hold of the dog's leash. The owner will go out of sight for three minutes. The dog does not have to stay in position but should not continually bark, whine, pace unnecessarily, or show anything stronger than mild agitation or nervousness. Evaluators may talk to the dog but should not engage in excessive talking, petting, or consoling.