



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB<sup>SM</sup>



# CANINE GOOD CITIZEN TEST

PRESENTED BY:



**SPOKANE DOG  
TRAINING CLUB**



**2620 N LOCUST RD  
SPOKANE, WA  
509-922-2645**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS



- ❖ **WELCOME TO THE CANINE GOOD CITIZEN (CGC) PROGRAM**

- ❖ **PURPOSE OF THE CGC PROGRAM**

- ❖ **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

- ❖ **Test Item #1 ACCEPTING A FRIENDLY STRANGER**

  - Training Tip – Accepting a Friendly Stranger

- ❖ **Test Item #2 SITTING POLITELY FOR PETTING**

  - Training Tip – Sitting Politely for petting

- ❖ **Test Item #3 APPEARANCE AND GROOMING**

  - Training Tip – Appearance and Grooming

- ❖ **Test Item #4 WALKING ON A LOOSE LEASH WALK**

  - Training Tip – Walking on a loose leash – Out for a walk

- ❖ **Test Item #5 WALKING THROUGH A CROWD**

  - Training Tip – Walking through a crowd

- ❖ **Test Item #6 SIT AND DOWN ON COMMAND/STAY IN PLACE**

  - Training Tip – Sit and Down on command/Stay in place

- ❖ **Test Item #7 COMING WHEN CALLED**

  - Training Tip – Coming when called

- ❖ **Test Item #8 REACTION TO ANOTHER DOG**

  - Training Tip – Reaction to another dog

- ❖ **Test Item #9 REACTION TO DISTRACTIONS**

  - Training Tip – Reaction to distractions

- ❖ **Test Item #10 SUPERVISED SEPARATION**

  - Training Tip – Supervised Separation

- ❖ **AKC PET PROMISE**

- ❖ **WHERE TO GO FROM HERE?**

- ❖ **TO COMPETE IN AKC EVENTS**

- ❖ **AKC OBJECTIVES AND CORE VALUES**

- ❖ **SPOKANE DOG TRAINING CLUB MEMBER CREDITS**

# WELCOME

## TO THE CANINE GOOD CITIZEN (CGC) PROGRAM

- Many dog owners choose Canine Good Citizen training as the first step in training their dogs. The Canine Good Citizen Program. The CGC program started in 1989, this program is designed to reward dogs who have good manners at home and in the community.
- The CGC Program lays the foundation for other AKC activities such as obedience, agility, tracking, and performance events. As you work with your dog to teach the CGC skills, you'll discover the many benefits and joys of training your dog. Training will enhance the bond between you and your dog. Dogs who have a solid obedience education are a joy to live with-they respond well to household routines, have good manners in the presence of people and other dogs, and they fully enjoy the company of the owner who took the time to provide training, intellectual stimulation, and a high quality life. We sincerely hope that CGC will be only a beginning for you and your dog and that after passing the CGC test, you'll continue training in obedience, agility, tracking, nose work, barn hunt or other events.
- AKC's Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Program is one of the most rapidly growing programs in the American Kennel Club. There are many exciting applications of this wonderful, entry level that go far beyond the 10-step CGC test.

# PURPOSE OF THE CGC PROGRAM

- The purpose of the CGC Program is to ensure that our favorite companion, the dog, can be a respected member of the community because it has been trained to be well behaved in the home, in public places and in the presence of other dogs. The CGC Program welcomes both purebred and mixed breed dogs.
- The CGC test is noncompetitive and dogs are not required to perform with the same precision required to do formal obedience. Dogs that pass all 10 items of the CGC test, including purebreds and mixed breeds, are listed in the CGC records at the American Kennel Club. Owners of dogs that pass all 10 items of the CGC test may order an official CGC certificate from the American Kennel Club.
- The CGC Program is a two part program that is designed to:
  - 1) To teach responsible dog ownership to owners and basic good manners for dogs.
  - 2) Certify dogs that have the training and behaviors needed to be reliable, well-behaved members of their families and communities.
- All dogs must be old enough to have received necessary immunizations and rabies vaccines to take the 10 step CGC test.

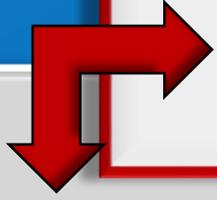


# TEST ITEM #1

## ACCEPTING A FRIENDLY STRANGER



- This test demonstrates that 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. (e.g., “Hello, it’s good to see you again,” as they shake hands).
- The dog must show no sign of resentment or shyness, and must not break position or try to go to the evaluator. In this test, the Evaluator does not interact with the dog.
- ***Remember you can talk to your dog during the test. Reinforcing sit, stay, watch me, and lets go! Speak to your dog in a cheerful and positive tone.***



## **TRAINING TIP:** **ACCEPTING A FRIENDLY STRANGER**

Your dog needs to be shown how to behave when you meet friends on the street or welcome them into your home. Arrange numerous social encounters by inviting friends to your home or by taking walks in your neighborhood. Keep your leash handy when you are home so you can put it on your dog. One of the easiest ways to teach your dog to meet a new person is to begin with the dog on a leash. Have the dog seated at your side. Ask the person to approach and pet the dog. If your dog is excitable in the beginning, the person can approach, lightly touch the dog and back up. Praise the dog for staying in the sit position. If you choose to use food during training, begin with the dog seated at your side. As the person approaches, reward the dog with a small bit of food for staying in the sit position. For a problem dog, you can have a helper approach to pet the dog. If the dog jumps up, the helper can say, "Sit," and reward the dog with a small piece of food only when the dog is sitting.

## TEST ITEM #2

### SITTING POLITELY FOR PETTING



- This test demonstrates that 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 (either side is permissible) to begin the exercise, the evaluator pets the dog on the head and body only.
- The handler may talk to his or her dog throughout the exercise. The dog may stand in place once petting begins. The dog must not show shyness or resentment.





## TRAINING TIP: SITTING POLITELY FOR PETTING

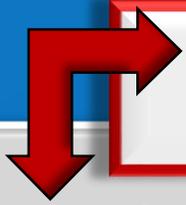
- In public, strangers will want to meet your budding Canine Good Citizen. You have already accomplished a large part of this exercise by teaching your dog to react calmly to visitors in your home.
- Start by having your dog remain sitting while you and family members approach and pet it. Praise the dog as it sits and don't allow anyone to pet the dog while it is jumping. If your dog is excitable, you may have to direct your helper to approach, start with merely touching the dog and back up. The length of time of the petting can be very gradually increased over time. As soon as your dog understands that it must remain under control while being petted by those it knows, you can allow strangers to do the same. Remember that many people, especially children, do not know how to approach an animal and they may need some guidance, particularly before your dog is well trained and reliable. If you have chosen to use food rewards in training, you can have your helper approach to pet the dog. The helper can remind the dog to sit and give a treat **ONLY** when the dog is sitting. You can choose to give the dog the food yourself when it sits for petting by another person.
- With the dog sitting at the handler's side, (either side is permissible) to begin the test, the Evaluator approaches and asks, "May I pet your dog?" The Evaluator then pets the dog on the head and body. The handler may talk to his or her dog throughout the exercise. After petting the dog, the Evaluator may circle the dog, or simply back away to begin the next test.



## TEST ITEM #3 APPEARANCE AND GROOMING



- This practical test demonstrates that the dog will welcome being groomed and examined and will permit someone, such as a veterinarian, groomer or friend of the owner, to do so.
- It also 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, and in a natural manner, 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, praise it and give encouragement throughout this exam.



## **TRAINING TIP:** **APPEARANCE AND GROOMING**

- The type of grooming tool depends on the dog's coat. Brushing and grooming should be an enjoyable experience, therefore gentle combing and brushing are a natural extension of petting and stroking. Your dog should receive gradual, positive conditioning with a calm voice and verbal praise while the dog is being groomed and examined. If your dog fears this type of handling or becomes uncertain when its ears or feet are touched, spend time allowing it to associate grooming and human touch with a happy experience (such as vocal praise or treats) when it gives the slightest positive response.
- Pleasant daily handling and grooming will help you recognize physical problems early on, and your dog does not need to hold a specific position during the examination and you may talk to the dog, praise it and give encouragement throughout.
- Some dogs will wiggle or squirm when they are excited. Some squirming is acceptable, however, this should not be so excessive that the dog cannot be brushed. The dog should not struggle (pull away with intensity) to avoid the brushing.
- The Evaluator may give specific instructions for handling the dog in a manner that ensures safety. For example, when the feet are to be handled, the Evaluator may request that each leg be lifted. The Evaluator may request that the dog's head is steady for checking the ears.
- Any dog requiring restraining so it can be examined should not pass the test. The key question for this test is, "Could a veterinarian or groomer easily examine my dog". It could very well save your dog's life.

# TEST ITEM #4

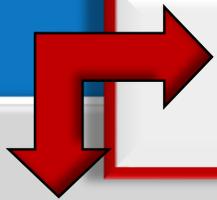
## WALKING ON A LOOSE LEASH – OUT FOR A WALK

- This test demonstrates that the handler is in control of the dog.
- The dog may be on either side of the handler, whichever the handler prefers.
- There must be a left turn, a right turn and an about turn, with at least one stop in between and at the end.
- The dog need not be perfectly aligned with the handler and need not sit when the handler stops.

*Please note:*

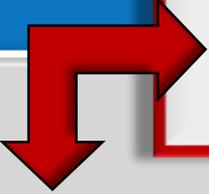
*The left-side position is required in all AKC competitive obedience events.*





## **TRAINING TIP: WALKING ON A LOOSE LEASH**

- You can train for this exercise by allowing your dog slack in the leash as you begin to move. If your dog begins to pull, stop and stand still until the dog stops pulling, then proceed. Don't move forward as long as the dog is pulling. Remember to praise the dog when it is not pulling. You can also teach this exercise by showing your dog a treat or toy to encourage it to move with you as you begin to walk. With treat in hand, walk with your treat at your side hip level so that the dog smells it.
- If you have chosen to use food rewards, you can hold the food as you walk with your dog. Periodically give the dog a small bit of food and lavish praise for watching and walking along with you nicely.
- Anticipation of food or play motivates the dog to stay in the proper place. Remember to praise your dog with this method also. With consistency and plenty of praise and attention, your dog will learn to move happily in the desired position and toys and treats can be eliminated.
- The handler may talk to the dog and encourage or praise the dog throughout the test. The dog should not be straining at the leash or show shyness by walking behind the owner/handler.



## TRAINING TIP: WALKING ON A LOOSE LEASH (CONTINUED)

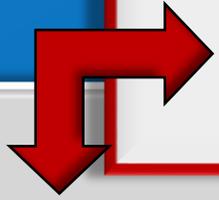
The dog's position should leave no doubt that the dog is attentive to the handler and is responding to the handler's movements and changes of direction. The dog need not be perfectly aligned with the handler and need not sit when the handler stops. The evaluator may use a pre-plotted course or may direct the handler/dog team by issuing instructions or commands. In either case, ***there must be a left turn, right turn, and an about turn, with at least one stop in between and one at the end.*** The handler may talk to the dog along the way to praise or command it in a normal tone of voice. The handler may also sit the dog at the halt, if desired. In order to see your movements and respond to them, your dog's head needs to be fairly close to your side. Many untrained dogs will tend to pull ahead, making a simple walk an unpleasant task. Your dog can learn to move on a loose leash, and as soon as it does, you will find that you are taking it everywhere with you because your canine companion is rewarding to be with.



## TEST ITEM # 5 WALKING THROUGH A CROWD

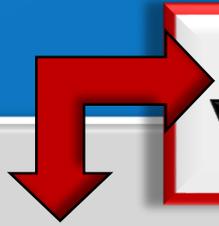


- This test demonstrates that the dog can move about politely in pedestrian traffic and is under control in public places.
- The dog and handler walk around and pass close to several people (at least three). The dog may show some interest in the strangers but should continue to walk with the handler, without evidence of over-exuberance, shyness or resentment. The dog should not be trying to hide behind the handler.
- The handler may talk to the dog and encourage or praise the dog throughout the test. The dog should not jump on people in the crowd or strain on the leash.
- **Remember that you will have to fade out the food rewards and toys before taking the CGC Test.**



## **TRAINING TIP:** **WALKING THROUGH A CROWD**

Because you have already practiced walking with a leash in your neighborhood, your dog is probably used to encountering people. If, however, there is no one around, go to a public place or to a public park. With an excitable dog, try to work up to close encounters gradually until your dog is comfortable and controllable. For example, choose a quiet weekday evening for a walk before you choose a busy weekend. If your dog tries to go to and jump on a passer-by, you can give a quick tug on the collar as you give the command "heel" or some similar command that means, "let's walk." Praise the dog for paying attention to you. Start this exercise by walking your dog with people at a distance and gradually move the dog closer to the people. If you have chosen to use food rewards, you can hold the food as you walk with your dog. Periodically give the dog a small bit of food and lavish praise for watching you and walking along nicely.



## **TRAINING TIP:** **WALKING THROUGH A CROWD (CONTINUED)**

This test simulates settings such as busy sidewalks or walking through a crowd at a public event or dog show.

- Some of the members of the crowd may be standing still; however, some crowd members should be moving around quietly conversing not engaging with the dog.
- In this test, the dog may show some interest in the strangers but should continue to walk with the handler, without evidence of over exuberance, shyness or resentment.
- The dog may show mild interest in members of the crowd. The dog may sniff a person in the crowd briefly but must move on promptly.
- The dog may not jump on people in the crowd or attempt to go to them.
- The dog should not be trying to hide behind the handler.
- The dog should not be straining at the leash.

If the CGC is being given for therapy dog certification (which is not an AKC activity), most national therapy dog groups require that at least one person in the crowd use some health-care equipment such as walkers, canes, wheelchairs, etc. There may be one dog in the crowd, but the dog must be on leash, well mannered, and not attempt to initiate contact with dogs that are being tested.

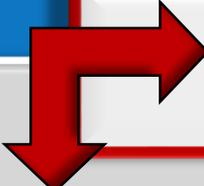
# TEST ITEM # 6

## SIT AND DOWN ON COMMAND /STAY IN PLACE



- This test 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 2) down on command 3) then, stay in a sit or down.**
- For the Stay in Place test, the handler may choose to leave the dog in a sit or down position. The test may look like this:
  - **Show me your dog can sit on command. Great!**
  - **Now show me your dog will go down on command. Great!**
  - **Now it's time for the stay and you may choose the position, sit or down,**
  - **leave your dog and walk out to the end of this line.**
- Prior to this test, the dog's leash is removed and replaced with a 20-ft. line (or a 15-ft. line attached to the dog's leash). The handler may take a reasonable amount of time and use more than one command to make the dog sit and then down. The Evaluator must determine if the dog has responded to the handler's commands. The handler **may not use** excessive force to put the dog into either position, but may touch the dog to offer gentle guidance.



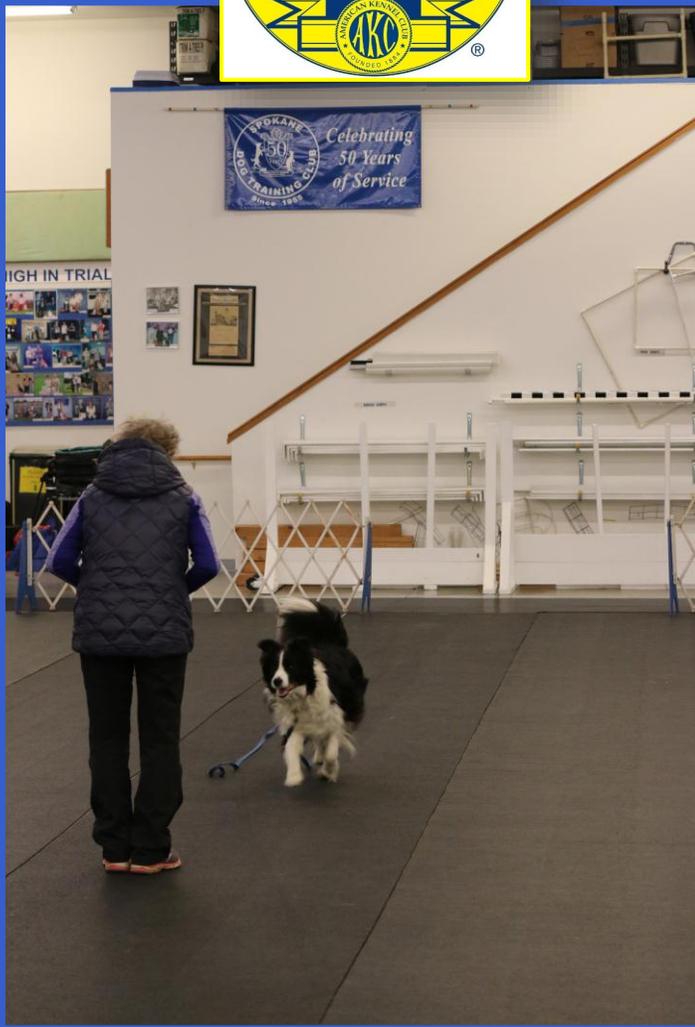


## TRAINING TIP: STAY IN PLACE

- With your dog at your side, command it to sit or down. Once it is in position, you are ready to give a “stay” command.
- Lower your hand, palm toward the dog’s face, as a signal to stay as you say the word, “stay”. Then pivot so you are standing directly in front of the dog. (almost toe to toe) Remain there for only a few seconds, then return to the dog's side and praise the dog. If the dog breaks the stay put the dog in place and give the reminder to “stay”. If you are using food rewards, give the treat as soon as you return to position by the dogs side.
- As soon as your dog is reliable on this short stay with you close to the dog, start adding time to the stay, and then bring in some distractions. When your dog is steady for a minute or so, you can begin moving a little further away in each training session.
- Keep your dog on a leash until it is absolutely reliable and can be walked around on leash without getting up. In the beginning keep time to a minimum (30 seconds) and then lengthen the time as your dog becomes more confident. Lots of calm praises for staying in place.



## TEST ITEM # 7 COMING WHEN CALLED



- This test demonstrates that the dog will come when called by the handler. With the dog still on the 20-ft. line from test item #6.
- The handler will walk 10 feet from the dog, turn to face the dog, and will call the dog. The handler may use body language and encouragement when calling the dog. The handler can bend down to call the dog, pat his or her legs, and make encouraging sounds
- Handlers may tell the dog to “stay” or “wait” (or another similar command) or they may simply walk away. The dog may be left in the sit, down, or standing position. If a dog attempts to follow the handler, the Evaluator may distract the dog (e.g., petting) until the handler is 10 feet away. This exercise does not test “stay”; this exercise tests whether or not the dog will come when called.
- The test is complete when the dog comes to the handler and the handler attaches the dog’s own leash.
- Dogs who attempt to follow the handler may pass the test. The Evaluator should distract the dog. The test begins when the handler calls the dog.



## **TRAINING TIP: COMING WHEN CALLED**

- This test item will only be successful when you have a secure sit/down stay. Refresh training tip for TEST ITEM #6.
- To begin teaching your dog to come, put on your dog's leash.
- The dog is left for the stay in a sit or down. Insure that the dog is in a stay before leaving the dogs side reaffirm with a "stay." Walk away from your dog with confidence, don't stop or look over your shoulder and go out 6 feet, turn and stand and in front of your dog and call your dog's name enthusiastically.
- You may call more then once, (two or three attempts) but if many, repeated prompts are required, the dog should not pass.
- Once your dog comes to you when called take the dogs leash and give the dog plenty of praise, pats, hugs or a food reward.
- During training if your dog breaks it stay as you leave, shorten up the time and the length of distance between you and your dog. Build up the time as the dog gets more confident Separation anxiety is often why a dog breaks its down. Confidence as your dog's owner plays a key roll in your training.

# TEST ITEM #8

## REACTION TO ANOTHER DOG



- This test demonstrates that the dog can behave politely around other dogs. Two handlers and their dogs approach each other from a distance of about 15 feet, stop, shake hands and exchange pleasantries, and continue on.
- The dog should show no more than a casual interest in the distraction dog. If the dog attempts to go to or jump on the distraction dog, it should not pass the test.
- The dog may move slightly toward the other dog/handler, then stop. The dog must stay back from the other dog/handler.
- The dog can stretch its neck and sniff without moving forward to the other dog/handler.
- When the handlers stop to shake hands, the dog does not have to sit. It can remain standing beside the handler. If the dog remains standing, it should not cross over in front of the handler to go to the other dog. The conversation between the handlers can be brief, "Hi, good to see you again. Give me a call sometime."
- As the handler leaves, if the dog turns around and begins pulling as if to follow the other dog/handler, the dog should not pass the test.
- If the distraction dog causes a disruption, the dog can be tested again with a more appropriate distraction dog. The distraction dog should have been observed or evaluated before the test to ensure that it is reliable.





## **TRAINING TIP: REACTION TO ANOTHER DOG**

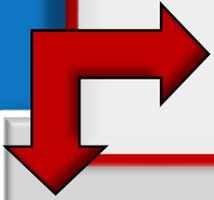
- To begin, every time you see a dog and handler walking, stop and reinforce a “stay” command in either a sit or down position as they pass by.
- Praise your dog for staying in position, “good stay”. Eventually, your dog will be able to move around and move toward the other dog and remain under control.
- If are training with food you can give your dog a treat for paying attention to you, “good watch me” and “good stay.”
- Lengthen the time for your stays and watch me. The time should be about as long as pleasantries are exchanged by the handlers.
- Practice this exercise until you dog reacts reliably to canine encounters. It should show no more than mild interest in the approaching dog and handler so you can stop, shake hands and go your own way.
- The test demonstrates that the dog can behave politely around other dogs. Two handlers and their dogs approach each other from a distance of about 15 feet, stop, shake hands and exchange pleasantries, and continue on. When the handlers stop to shake hands, the dog does not have to sit. It can remain standing beside the handler. If the dog remains standing, it should not cross over in front of the handler to go to the other dog.
- The conversation between the handlers can be brief, “Hi, good to see you again. Give me a call sometime.”
- Leave the exchange with a step forward and a “let’s go” and continue to walk. Within reasonable distance stop and praise the dog with verbal praise or play.



## TEST ITEM # 9 REACTION TO DISTRACTIONS



- This test demonstrates that the dog is confident at all times when faced with common distracting situations. The evaluator will select and present two distractions.
- Examples of distractions include 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 and curiosity and/or may appear slightly startled but should not panic, try to run away, show aggressiveness, or bark.
- The handler may talk to the dog and encourage or praise it throughout the exercise.



## **TRAINING TIP:** **REACTION TO DISTRACTIONS**

- Distractions should be very slight at the beginning of training and gradually increase in degree of challenge. As with training motivators, the nature of distractions should depend on the individual dog.
- Build distraction resistance one factor at a time in the early training stages; as your dog gets better at ignoring temptation, he'll be ready for multivariable distractions.
- If your dog shows fear of unusual object, sounds or movements you should help it by briefly exposing it to these things in a nonthreatening environment, preferably at a comfortable distance. Praise, treats, toys and playful interaction may eventually help the dog associate what was once frightening with positive experience.
- Sound sensitive dogs may cause the dog to panic; but a heavy book dropped 6 feet in front of the same dog may not even be noticed. Gradually moving the book closer, to the side of the dog and finally, behind its back will desensitize the dog in a positive way.
- If your dog shows aggression behaviors such as lunging at distractions and trying to bite it, the same techniques may be applied by exposing the dog gradually, and distance the things that triggers it aggression. If your dog is aggressive, you should be working with an experienced instructor.

# TEST ITEM # 10

## SUPERVISED SEPARATION

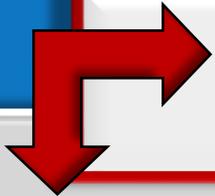
This test demonstrates that a dog can be left with a trusted person, if necessary, and will maintain training and good manners.

Evaluators are encouraged to 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, or 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 management attempts (e.g., "there, there, it's alright").





## TRAINING TIP: SUPERVISED SEPARATION

- To prepare your dog by going out of sight for a few seconds as you practice distance on your “stay” command. You can go into another room, walk behind a tree or around the corner of a building. If you don’t have a helper, use a light 15 foot line and hold onto it, you will know if your dog moves, even if you can’t see it. If your dog breaks the stay, go back and reposition the dog by saying, “stay.” Don’t go too far away or too fast or your dog will not be successful.
- The easiest way to train this exercise is to have a help who holds the dog’s leash while you go out of sight. You will gradually lengthen the time you leave the dog. Before long, your dog will learn to be briefly separated from you and to stay with a person your dog trusts.
- When returning to your dog, approach the dog in a calm manner and speak to the dog in a calm voice with a “Good stay.” Over excitement as you return to your dog will reinforce separation anxiety.
- Train in 15 minute intervals throughout the day with lots of praise, treats and patience.

# AKC PET PROMISE

I understand that to truly be a Canine Good Citizen, my dog needs a responsible owner. I agree to maintain my dog's health, safety, and quality of life. By participating in the Canine Good Citizen test, I agree that:

**I will be responsible for my dog's health needs. These include:**

- routine veterinary care including check-ups and vaccines
- adequate nutrition through proper diet; clean water at all times
- daily exercise and regular bathing and grooming

**I will be responsible for my dog's safety.**

- I will properly control my dog by providing fencing where appropriate, not letting my dog run loose, and using a leash in public.
- I will ensure that my dog has some form of identification (which may include collar tags, tattoos, or microchip ID).

**I will not allow my dog to infringe on the rights of others.**

- I will not allow my dog to run loose in the neighborhood.
- I will not allow my dog to be a nuisance to others by barking while in the yard, in a hotel room, etc.
- I will pick up and properly dispose of my dog's waste in all public areas such as on the grounds of hotels, on sidewalks, parks, etc.
- I will pick up and properly dispose of my dog's waste in wilderness areas, on hiking trails, campgrounds and in off-leash parks.

**I will be responsible for my dog's quality of life.**

- I understand that basic training is beneficial to all dogs.
- I will give my dog attention and playtime.
- I understand that owning a dog is a commitment in time and caring.

Owner's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# WHERE TO GO FROM HERE!



- Get involved with [your local AKC Club](#). Not only do they offer invaluable resources and training classes, you'll meet new people with similar interests who are more than willing to share their knowledge and lend a hand.
- **Find the Right Sport**
- There are many canine sports to choose from, and many people participate in more than one. But when you're just starting out, it can be hard to decide which one to try first. Start by assessing your dog's appearance, health and temperament:
- Think your dog is quite a looker and a perfect example of his breed? Try showing your dog in [Conformation](#).
- Is he highly energetic? Does he enjoy running and responding to instruction? If so, [Agility](#) could be a great fit.
- Has your dog mastered basic commands such as sit, stay and heel and seems eager to learn more? Try [Obedience](#).
- Does your dog like doing obedience work in a low stress environment? Have you never competed before? [Rally](#) is a great place to start.
- Does your dog have an instinct to chase? Is he speedy? Try training for the [Coursing Ability Test](#).
- Will your dog follow a scent no matter where it may lead? Does he work well independently? Try [Tracking](#)



# WHERE TO GO FROM HERE!

## (CONTINUED)

- Is your dog a scent sleuth? Can he find his food or toys by smell alone? Try [AKC Scent Work](#).
- Think your dog has a natural instinct for herding livestock? Yes, there is a sport for that too: [Herding](#).
- Do you have a small Terrier or Dachshund? Have the vermin in your yard met their match? [Earthdog tests](#) might be for you.
- Is your dog a sighthound? (Afghan Hounds, Basenjis, Borzois, Greyhounds, Ibizan Hounds, Irish Wolfhounds, Italian Greyhounds, Pharaoh Hounds, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Salukis, Scottish Deerhounds, and Whippets)? Does he turn into an Energizer bunny when something small moves fast on the ground? [Lure Coursing](#) may be his speed.
- Is your dog a Pointing Breed, Spaniel, Retriever or Hound? Explore the rich tradition of [Field Events](#).
- If you have a Coonhound, you probably know it. Does he run whenever given the chance? Is he an explorer? Does he have high bursts of energy, and then crashes? Find a [Coonhound event](#) near you.

# TO COMPETE IN AKC EVENTS

- Generally speaking, to compete in an AKC sport or event, your dog must have an AKC number via one of the following:
- [AKC Registration Number](#) – This number is provided to a dog owner via a registration certificate received from the previous owner, or via a puppy registration paper given to the new owner by the breeder.
- [Purebred Alternative Listing \(PAL\)](#) – If a dog is purebred but an AKC Registration Number is not possible, owners can apply for PAL number
- [AKC Canine Partners Number](#) – This number is given to either mixed breed dogs or a purebred.
- [Foundation Stock Service®\(FSS\) Number](#) – This number is used for breeds whose status is currently in the foundational stage of being recorded into our registry and requires a copy of the dog's pedigree.
- In addition:
- The dog must be physically sound and up-to-date on all inoculations and health check-ups.
- Spayed females and neutered males are eligible to participate (except in Conformation).
- Females may not be allowed to participate while in season, depending on the sport.
- However, each sport has its own [rules and regulations](#), so be sure to familiarize yourself before beginning a new world of fun and companionship with your dog.

Thank you to the membership and evaluators of the Spokane Dog Training Club. This publication was compiled for the purpose as a guide and training tips for the completion of the American Kennel Clubs Canine Good Citizen test. The Spokane Dog Training Club, membership and evaluators strive to ensure that as a member of the American Kennel Club (AKC) we follow the AKC's mission as follows:

The American Kennel Club is dedicated to upholding the integrity of its Registry, promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function. Founded in 1884, the AKC® and its affiliated organizations advocate for the purebred dog as a family companion, advance canine health and well-being, work to protect the rights of all dog owners and promote responsible dog ownership.

### Objective

- Advance the study, breeding, exhibiting, running and maintenance of purebred dogs.

### Core Values

- We love purebred dogs.
- We are committed to advancing the sport of the purebred dog.
- We are dedicated to maintaining the integrity of our Registry.
- We protect the health and well-being of all dogs.
- We cherish dogs as companions.
- We are committed to the interests of dog owners.
- We uphold high standards for the administration and operation of the AKC.
- We recognize the critical importance of our clubs and volunteers.



Thank you to the membership and evaluators of the Spokane Dog Training Club. Below are the dedicated members that participated in this tutorial:

**Evaluators:**

Maxine Bignall – CGC # 64253  
Australian Shepherds

Wendy Costello – CGC # 93273  
Chow Chows

Katrina Peterson – CGC # 96136  
Border Collie & English Springer Spaniel

**Participating CGC test recipients:**

Teri Beeman  
Onka – Entlebucher Mountain Dog

Susan Hiatt  
Regan – Border Collie

Karen Pynsia  
Susanne – Whippet

Karen Winsper  
Maizy – French Bulldog

**Participating members:**

Kirk Dickson  
Shetland Sheepdogs & Islandic Dogs

Jim Lawrence  
Vizsla  
Micky the Vizsla – Strange Dog

Ron Vergona  
German Shepherd Dogs

**Behind the scenes:**

Director of Training – Gail Dickson  
Shetland Sheepdogs & Islandic Dogs

Canine Good Citizen Coordinator – Addie Vergona  
German Shepherd Dogs

Public Education Coordinator – Jacquie Witham  
German Shepherd Dogs

Photographer - Eric Dickson  
Shetland Sheepdogs

Video – Brent Peterson  
Border Collie & English Springer  
Spaniel

Website – Debbie Powell  
Vizsla, Australian Shepherd & Border  
Collie

