

# AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC<sup>SM</sup>) Program

## What Is It?

### AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Program

At the American Kennel Club, we're not just champion dogs, we're the dogs' champion. We believe that all dogs deserve training and a responsible owner and our goal is to reward responsible dog ownership.

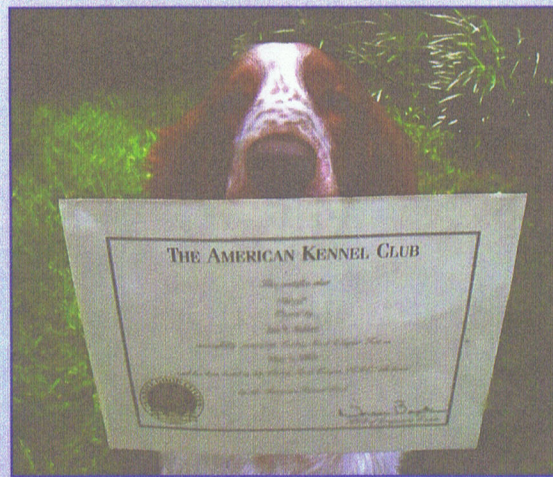
The AKC's Canine Good Citizen Program is designed to recognize dogs who have good manners at home and in the community. This rapidly growing nationally recognized program stresses responsible dog ownership for owners and basic training and good manners for dogs. All dogs who pass the 10 step CGC test may receive a certificate from the American Kennel Club.



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### The Benefits of Training

The AKC CGC Program provides an excellent foundation for training in other fun activities such as Rally, Obedience, and Agility and results in a well-mannered dog who is a joy to live with. Some therapy dog groups require passing the CGC Test as a prerequisite, some insurance companies recommend CGC training, and an increasing number of apartments and condos are requiring CGC training for resident dogs.



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## How It Works

You can attend a basic training or CGC class to teach your dog the CGC behaviors, or if you have the skills and knowledge, you can teach your dog the CGC skills.

When your dog is ready, you'll sign up for a CGC test administered by an AKC Approved CGC Evaluator. Tests are held at AKC dog shows, at some training classes, at a number of pet super stores, or some evaluators will make an appointment to test your dog.

When your dog passes the CGC test, the evaluator will give you the paperwork to send to AKC to request the CGC certificate.

To find an evaluator near you, see:

[http://www.akc.org/events/cgc/cgc\\_bystate.cfm](http://www.akc.org/events/cgc/cgc_bystate.cfm)



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A key component of the Canine Good Citizen Program is responsible dog ownership. At the CGC test, you'll be asked to sign the Responsible Dog Owner's Pledge before you and your dog go through the test. Responsibility should start the moment you decide to add a new dog or puppy to your family.

## AKC CGC RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER'S PLEDGE

*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 when appropriate (which may include collar tags, tattoos, or microchip ID).
- I will provide adequate supervision when my dog and children are together.

*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.



## AKC CANINE GOOD CITIZEN TEST

The CGC TEST consists of 10 skills needed by all well-mannered dogs. All of the exercises are done on a leash.

### 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.

### Test 2: Sitting politely for petting

The dog will allow a friendly stranger to pet it while it is out with its handler.

### Test 3: Appearance and grooming

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.

### Test 4: Out for a walk (walking on a loose lead)

The handler/dog team will take a short "walk" to show that the dog is in control while walking on a leash.

### Test 5: Walking through a crowd

The dog and handler walk around and pass close to several people (at least three) to demonstrate that the dog can move about politely in pedestrian traffic and is under control in public places.

### Test 6: Sit and down on command and Staying in place

The dog will respond to the handler's commands to 1) sit, 2) down and will 3) remain in the place commanded by the handler (sit or down position, whichever the handler prefers).

### Test 7: Coming when called

The dog will come when called by the handler. The handler will walk 10 feet from the dog, turn to face the dog, and call the dog.

### Test 8: Reaction to another dog

To demonstrate that 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 exchange pleasantries, and continue on for about 10 feet.

### Test 9: Reaction to distraction

To demonstrate the dog is confident 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.

### Test 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.

### Equipment

You'll need to bring your dog's brush or comb to the CGC test. In the CGC test, dogs must wear a buckle collar or slip collar.

For details regarding equipment, expanded descriptions of the exercises above, and how the CGC Test is administered, see:

[http://www.akc.org/events/cgc/training\\_testing.cfm](http://www.akc.org/events/cgc/training_testing.cfm)



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## American Kennel Club

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.

## American Kennel Club

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## AKC Canine Good Citizen Program

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## AKC® CANINE GOOD CITIZEN® PROGRAM



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