

CGC Test Items

The CGC Program teaches good manners to dogs and responsible dog ownership to their owners. The 10-step Canine Good Citizen test is a non-competitive test for all dogs, including purebreds and mixed breeds. The CGC award is a prerequisite for many therapy dog groups. Some homeowner's insurance companies are encouraging CGC testing, and an increasing number of apartments and condos require that resident dogs pass the CGC test. The CGC Program also includes the AKC CGCSM Responsible Dog Owner Pledge.

The CGC test includes:

[Accepting a friendly stranger](#)

The dog will allow a friendly stranger to approach it and speak to the handler in a natural, everyday situation.

[Sitting Politely for Petting](#)

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

[Appearance and Grooming](#)

The dog will permit someone to check its ears and front feet, as a groomer or veterinarian would do.

[Out for a Walk \(walking on a loose lead\)](#)

Following the evaluator's instructions, the dog will walk on a loose lead (with the handler/owner).

[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).

[Sit and Down on Command and Staying in Place](#)

The dog must do sit AND down on command, then the owner chooses the position for leaving the dog in the stay.

[Coming When Called](#)

This test demonstrates that the dog will come when called by the handler (from 10 feet on a leash).

[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 20 feet, stop, shake hands and exchange pleasantries.

[Reaction to Distraction](#)

The evaluator will select and present two distractions such as dropping a chair, etc.

[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").