

# CGC Test – Handlers

Here are the basics for how you should handle your dog during the CGC Test. You can find more information about each test on the AKC website.

## Test 1: Accepting a friendly stranger

*This test demonstrates that the dog will allow a friendly stranger to approach and speak to the handler in a natural, everyday situation.*

**HOW IT WORKS:** The evaluator approaches and greets you in a friendly manner, ignoring your dog. You and the evaluator will shake hands and exchange pleasantries. Your dog must show no sign of resentment or shyness.

## Test 2: Sitting politely for petting

*This test demonstrates that the dog will allow a friendly stranger to touch it while with its handler.*

**HOW IT WORKS:** With the dog at your side, the evaluator will pet the dog on the head and body. You may talk to your dog throughout. The dog must not show shyness or resentment.

## Test 3: Appearance and grooming

*This test demonstrates that the dog will welcome being groomed and examined.*

**HOW IT WORKS:** The evaluator will examine your dog to determine if it is clean and groomed. The dog must appear to be in healthy condition. You should supply a comb or brush commonly used on the dog. The evaluator will softly comb or brush the dog, lightly examine the ears, and gently pick up each front foot. It is not necessary for the dog to hold a specific position during the examination, and you may talk to the dog, praise it, and give encouragement throughout.

## Test 4: Out for a walk

*This test demonstrates that the handler is in control of the dog when the dog is walking on a leash.*

**HOW IT WORKS:** The dog may be on either side of you. There should be no doubt that your dog is attentive to you and is responding to your movements and changes of direction. The dog need not be perfectly aligned with you and need not sit when you stop.

The evaluator may use a pre-plotted course or direct you by issuing instructions or commands. In either case, there should be a right turn, left turn, and an about turn with at least one stop in between and another at the end. You may talk to or praise your dog along the way or give commands in a normal tone of voice. You may ask your dog to sit at the halts if desired.

## Test 5: Walking through a crowd

*This test demonstrates that the dog can move about politely and is under control when on leash in public.*

**HOW IT WORKS:** You and your dog will walk around and pass close to several people. Your dog may show some interest in the strangers but should continue to walk with you, without evidence of over-exuberance, shyness, or resentment. You 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.

## CGC Test – Handlers *continued*

### Test 6: Sit and down on cue, staying in place

*This test demonstrates that the dog will respond to the handler's cues to sit and down and will remain in place (sit or down position).*

**HOW IT WORKS:** Prior to this test, the dog's leash is replaced with 20-foot line. You may choose to have your dog stay in the sit or down position. You may use more than one cue to get your dog to sit and then down. You may not force the dog into position but may touch the dog to offer gentle guidance. The evaluator will determine if your dog has responded to your cues.

When instructed by the evaluator, tell your dog to stay, then walk to the end of the line, turn, and return to the dog. Your dog must remain in place (though it may change position) until the evaluator instructs you to release the dog. You may release your dog from the front or the side.

### Test 7: Coming when called

*This test demonstrates that the dog will come when called by the handler.*

**HOW IT WORKS:** With the dog still on the 20-foot line, you'll walk away and then turn and call your dog. You may tell your dog to "stay" or "wait" or you may simply walk away. Walk 10 feet, turn to face the dog, and then call the dog. You may use encouragement to get the dog to come.

### Test 8: Reaction to another dog

*This test demonstrates that the dog can behave politely around other dogs.*

**HOW IT WORKS:** You and your dog and another handler and dog will approach each another from about 20 feet, stop, shake hands and exchange pleasantries, then continue on for about 10 feet. The dogs should show no more than casual interest in each other. Neither dog should go to the other dog or its handler.

### Test 9: Reaction to distraction

*This test demonstrates that the dog is always confident when faced with common distracting situations.*

**HOW IT WORKS:** The evaluator will present two distractions (dropping a chair, rolling a dolly past the dog, having a jogger run in front of the dog, dropping a crutch or cane, etc.) 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. You may talk to the dog and encourage or praise it throughout the exercise.

### Test 10: Supervised separation

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

Approach the volunteer with whom you'll leave your dog for 3 minutes. You may use commands like sit, down, stay, or wait. Then turn and walk out of sight to the spot designated by the evaluator. You may not speak to your dog while out of sight.