



THE KENNEL CLUB GOOD CITIZEN DOG SCHEME

# GUIDELINES



THE KENNEL CLUB  
*Making a difference for dogs*



# INTRODUCTION

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The Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme is a dog training programme that promotes socially acceptable dogs and creates responsible dog owners. The Scheme is non competitive and is open to dogs of all ages and all breeds, whether Kennel Club registered or not.

Since the Scheme's introduction in 1992, there are now over 1800 participating dog training organisations who offer training courses and testing sessions in the UK.

Emphasis is placed on the handler's ability to handle, control and generally care for their dog in a domestic environment. The object of each exercise is to provide a standard of control.

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# HOST ORGANISATIONS

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## HOST ORGANISATIONS

THE SCHEME IS EASY TO RUN AND FITS EASILY INTO NEWLY CREATED OR THE MORE ESTABLISHED DOG TRAINING ORGANISATIONS.

### A. CLUB REGISTRATION

Organising a Good Citizen Dog Scheme course and subsequent testing session can only be carried out by a Kennel Club Registered Club/Society or Kennel Club Approved Good Citizen Dog Scheme Listed Status Organisation.

The host Club/Organisation is responsible for arranging all aspects of the test including ordering the stationery, briefing the candidates, appointing an Examiner, overseeing the test and returning the required paperwork after the test has taken place.

### B. TRAINING COURSES

Course durations range from approximately six weeks upwards or courses can be continuous. Good Citizen Dog Scheme training sessions are normally held for approximately one hour per week, at a specific designated time.

Home work and practice sessions are encouraged to help advancement and progression.

### C. TESTING SESSIONS

For Bronze, Silver or Gold Award levels only. A test is normally set towards the end of the training course term. An external Examiner (see Examiner notes) is invited to attend the Club/Organisation and conduct a test of the required exercises applicable to each level. Note testing times may take longer than normal weekly sessions.

### D. KENNEL CLUB REGISTERED CLUB/ORGANISATION

A Kennel Club Registered Club is a form

of registration that encompasses Clubs/Societies and Organisations. It is bound by the Kennel Club Code of Practice, pays an annual fee, has officials and committee members and submits membership lists and annual financial accounts.

Its assets are owned by the members. The annual renewal date is the 1st January.

This type of registration requires the Club/Organisation to define exactly what its interests and parameters are to be in order to decide what category of Kennel Club Registered Club it is to become. The categories are as follows:

**I. Dog Training Societies:** With activities confined to the training of dogs. Once registered these societies may hold Obedience shows and matches, Agility tests and matches, Heelwork to Music competitions, Companion Dog Shows, Good Citizen Dog Scheme training classes and Scheme testing sessions and in certain cases Working Trials and rallies.

**II. Agility Societies:** With activities confined to the training of dogs. Once registered these societies may hold Agility tests and matches, Heelwork to Music competitions, Companion Dog Shows and Good Citizen Dog Scheme training classes and Scheme testing sessions.

**III. Ringcraft Societies:** With activities confined to Ringcraft Training (Breed). Once registered these societies may hold Breed and Obedience matches and Good Citizen Dog Scheme training classes and Scheme testing sessions. (Exempt from Annual Returns).

**IV. Breed Clubs:** Serving the interests of a specific breed or sub-group, either nationally

or regionally, as defined within its title. Once registered these societies may hold Breed and Obedience shows and matches, Agility tests and matches, Heelwork to Music competitions, Companion Dog Shows and in certain cases Field Trials, Gundog Working Tests, Good Citizen Dog Scheme training classes and Scheme testing sessions, Working Trials and rallies.

**V.** General Societies: Serving the interests of more than one breed, either nationally or as defined within its title. Once registered these societies may hold Breed and Obedience shows and matches, Agility tests and matches, Heelwork to Music competitions, Companion Dog Shows and in certain cases Field Trials, Gundog Working tests, Good Citizen Dog Scheme training classes and Scheme testing sessions, Working Trials and rallies.

**VI.** Imported Breed Register Clubs: For breeds on the Imported Breed Register, Registered Breed Societies will be termed provisional. These societies will be allowed to conduct Good Citizen Dog Scheme training classes and Scheme testing sessions.

**VII.** Branches: Breed Societies may apply to register branches which must be administered in a similar way to the parent society, with their own set of rules and local officers and committee.

**VIII.** Other types of Listed Status Organisations: Organisations approved for Agility, Obedience, Rally or Heelwork to Music (HTM) Listed Status may hold certain types of limited or open shows in their own activity.

Organisations approved for other types of Listed Status does not entitle that organisation to conduct Good Citizen Dog Scheme training classes or Scheme testing sessions. Organisations must apply separately and additionally for Good Citizen Dog Scheme Listed Status.

## E. CODE OF PRACTICE FOR KENNEL CLUB REGISTERED CLUBS

**I.** These Guidelines apply to all Kennel Club Registered Clubs/Organisations which host dog training classes incorporating the Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme (KC GCDS) programme. Copies of these guidelines and the Canine Code should be given to all course participants.

**II.** It is the responsibility of the Club/Organisation to ensure that the welfare of the dog is paramount. No activity shall be conducted which permits, encourages or develops aggression in a dog.

**III.** All Good Citizen Dog Scheme courses and training conducted must be in accordance with the Good Citizen Dog Scheme Guidelines and Information.

**IV.** Clubs/Organisations should ensure that their instructors are conversant with acknowledged methods of dog training and understand the rudiments of dog behaviour – preference should be given to motivational methods of training which take into account the breed and nature of each individual dog and Scheme testing sessions.

**V.** Instructors must be alert to the differing levels of experience of both owners and their dogs, recognise their limitations and should also be courteous at all times.

**VI.** Any training course participant who witnesses harsh handling at any event organised by a Kennel Club Registered Club must report the matter to a Club official. Where substantiated, the Club/Organisation must report the matter to the Kennel Club under rule 11.

**VII.** At the start of each training course, the importance of good dog behaviour, the socialisation of dogs and the theory of training should be discussed. Advice must be given on choosing suitable collars, leads, identification discs and training equipment.

**VIII.** Handlers must carry some form of ‘Poop

Scoop’ and remove fouling caused by their dog and scheme testing sessions.

**IX.** Following the introductory period, course attendees must participate in training for the Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme.

**X.** At every opportunity the Club/Organisation should promote the wider aspects of responsible dog ownership.

**XI.** The use of electric shock collars, spike collars or pinch collars during training or testing sessions is strictly prohibited.

## F. KENNEL CLUB APPROVED GOOD CITIZEN DOG SCHEME LISTED STATUS CLUB OR ORGANISATION

Good Citizen Dog Scheme Listed Status Clubs are bound by a Code of Practice for Listed Status Organisations. There is no requirement for these Clubs/Organisations to have a committee or produce any financial accounts annually. Once listed, these Clubs/Organisations must hold a minimum of two courses and/or tests per year. These Listed Status Organisations are not permitted to conduct shows, matches or rallies. This

### CATEGORIES

- I. Private Dog Training Groups**
- II. Dog Training Instructors**
- III. Canine Charities**
- IV. Dog Training Groups conducted at Armed Forces Bases**
- V. Dog Training Groups conducted by Local Council/Authority**
- VI. Veterinary Practices (from puppy socialisation classes or more advanced training levels)**
- VII. Agricultural Colleges**
- VIII. Further Education Centres**
- IX. Overseas Dog Training Groups/Organisations**

form of registration is open to the following categories:

## G. REQUIREMENTS FOR LISTED STATUS CLUBS/ORGANISATIONS

**I.** Complete the Listed Status Application form. These can be obtained from the Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme office upon request.

**II.** Provide confirmation of First Aid facilities.

**III.** Provide confirmation of Third Party Liability insurance.

**IV.** Provide a reference confirming the safety and suitability of the premises being used for training. Note: if the premises used by one Club/Organisation are in more than one location, an additional Listed Status application form and fee may be required.

**V.** Provide a reference confirming the training experience of the main Dog Training Instructor.

**VI.** An annual registration fee is payable a minimum of three years' experience is required for the head training instructor.

## H. GUIDELINES FOR KENNEL CLUB GOOD CITIZEN DOG SCHEME STATUS ORGANISATIONS

**I.** Listed Status Organisations which host dog training classes incorporating the Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme should ensure that copies of the Club/Organisation guidelines are made available to all course participants. Agreement to comply with these guidelines is confirmed by acceptance of Listed Status. The Listed Status Certificate should be displayed within the organisation's premises.

**II.** It is the responsibility of the organisation to ensure that the welfare of the dog is paramount. No activity shall be conducted which permits, encourages or develops aggression in a dog.

**III.** Organisations accepted for Good Citizen Dog Scheme Listed Status must conduct at least two Scheme courses or tests per year.

- IV.** All courses and training conducted must be in accordance with the Good Citizen Dog Scheme Guidelines and Information.
- V.** Organisations should ensure that their instructors are conversant with acknowledged methods of dog training and understand the rudiments of dog behaviour – preference should be given to motivational methods of training which take into account the breed and nature of each individual dog.
- VI.** Instructors must be alert to the differing levels of experience of both owners and their dogs, recognise their limitations and should also be courteous at all times. Clubs must provide good customer service.
- VII.** Any training course participant who witnesses harsh handling at any event organised by a Good Citizen Dog Scheme Listed Status organisation must report the matter to the course organiser. Where substantiated, the organisation must report the matter to the Kennel Club under rule 11.
- VIII.** At the start of each training course, the importance of good dog behaviour, the socialisation of dogs and the theory of training should be discussed. Advice must be given on choosing suitable collars, leads, identification discs and training equipment.
- IX.** Handlers must carry some form of 'Poop Scoop' and remove fouling caused by their dog.
- X. Following the introductory period, course attendees must participate in training for the Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme.
- XI.** At every opportunity Good Citizen Dog Scheme Listed Status Organisations should promote the wider aspects of responsible dog ownership.
- XII.** The use of electric shock collars, spike collars or pinch collars during training sessions is prohibited.

## I. TRANSFERRING FROM REGISTERED TO LISTED STATUS

Clubs that transfer from Kennel Club

Registered Club status to Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme Listed Status need to hold a special general meeting to dissolve the Club/Society before applying for Listed Status.

## J. CHANGING A CLUB NAME

Clubs which wish to amend any part of the Club's name will need to apply for approval. In the event of a complete name change, the club will be required to submit a new Listed Status application and references. Additional costs will be incurred for this service.

## K. CHANGING THE CO-ORDINATOR

If the main Dog Training Instructor (who will normally be the named co-ordinator of the Listed Status Club/Organisation) changes, a new reference confirming the training experience of the new main Dog Training Instructor is required before a transfer can take place.

## L. CHANGING THE PREMISES

If the premises used by the Listed Status Organisation changes, a new reference confirming the safety and suitability of the premises is required in writing.

## M. MULTIPLE PREMISES

If premises used by one organisation are in more than one location, an additional Listed Status application form and fee may be required for each premises.

## N. OVERSEAS DOG TRAINING CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Applications for Good Citizen Dog Scheme Listed Status membership from overseas training clubs are accepted subject to further confirmation of references. In addition, the overseas kennel club of the country where the dog training club resides must have a reciprocal agreement with the Kennel Club. Contact the Good Citizen Dog Scheme office for an application form.

## O. GENERAL RULES FOR ALL HOST ORGANISATIONS

**I.** Minimum age limit – The minimum age limit for acceptance on training courses is at the discretion of each individual training Club/ Organisation. This will depend on the location of the venue and may differ from one Club/ Organisation to another.

**II.** Breeds of dog – The Scheme is open to all breeds of dog.

**III.** Vaccinations – Each organisation that offers Good Citizen Dog Scheme training courses and testing sessions will set their standards for vaccination requirements. This will depend on the location of the venue and may differ from area to area.

**IV.** Fees – Training course fees will be at the discretion of the Training Club/ Organisation. It is not permitted to charge a specific fee for allowing a candidate to take a Good Citizen Dog Scheme test.

**V.** Safety – It is up to each individual organisation, club or society to ensure the safety of all concerned and to supervise class control during training courses and testing sessions.

**VI.** Insurance – It is up to each individual organisation, club or society to ensure third party liability cover is maintained.

**VII.** Complaints procedure – All complaints should be directed to the Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme, Clarges Street, London W1J 8AB.





## ORGANISING A TRAINING COURSE

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# ORGANISING A TRAINING COURSE

### A. NEW CLUBS

Once a Club/Organisation is registered or approved, they are provided with a letter of confirmation and an introductory pack. The pack includes a Good Citizen Dog Scheme Guidelines Handbook, a stationery order form and a sample of each individual stationery item.

### B. ORDERING STATIONERY

Ensure all stationery required is requested prior to the commencement of each course. Stationery orders take up to 10-14 working days to be despatched. Hence early ordering is required. Orders for stationery should be completed and submitted to the Good Citizen Dog Scheme office. Once the stationery is

received, training can commence straight away. Stationery Orders can be emailed to [gcds@thekennelclub.org.uk](mailto:gcds@thekennelclub.org.uk) or completed through the Kennel Club's online shop facility.

### C. HANDOUTS

The relevant paperwork is listed in the Scheme levels and on the Description sheets which should be given out to each student at the commencement of each course as applicable. These should be accompanied by a GCDS Canine Code.

### D. COURSE DURATION AND STANDARDS

Course durations range from approximately six weeks upwards or courses can be continuous. It will depend on the amount of time spent and the level of each training group as to how long each Award level will take to achieve. The test is non-competitive and the Course Training Instructor should be satisfied that dogs are worthy of passing the required standard before being tested for Bronze, Silver or Gold Award levels. For the Puppy Foundation Award, a pass for each exercise must be achieved before a puppy can be passed.

### E. TESTING EQUIPMENT

Consider additional equipment that may be required. Each Award Level Description lists the requirements for each exercise and it is advisable to read through these before each training course or testing session. Additional props such as gates, toys, food bowls, food and grooming equipment may be required as part of the test depending upon the award level you are working towards.

### F. COLLAR AND IDENTIFICATION

Any dog that is presented for testing must wear the correct Identification details inscribed on the collar or on a tag, plate, disc or barrel attached to it. The correct

information required to be displayed is the name and the address of the owner. The telephone number is optional, but advisable. Handlers that present their dog for testing with the incorrect information on the collar/tag will be deemed ineligible to be tested. (Please refer to the eligibility section in the notes for each Award level and the law relating to this). The above requirements apply to any GCDS Award level including the Puppy Foundation Assessment.

Microchipping or tattooing are forms of permanent identification and add extra security, if your pet is lost or stolen. Microchipping has been compulsory in Northern Ireland since 2012, and will be compulsory in England, Scotland and Wales with effect from the 6th April 2016. However microchipping will not remove the legal requirement for all dogs to also bear the correct identification details on the collar or tag. Please refer to the Dog Law section for further information.

### G. POOP SCOOPS

Handlers should carry a poop scoop with them at all times and pick up after their dog as required. This is part of the eligibility requirements of the Scheme. Should a dog defecate during a testing session, providing the handler picks up after the dog, no further action should be taken.

### H. LOCATIONS

Consider the location required to carry out the designated exercises. In the Silver and Gold Awards, some exercises have specific requirements as to how they should be carried out in order to achieve the overall objective. These may require the use of a public highway, vehicle or outdoor open space.



## TESTING SESSIONS

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# TESTING SESSIONS

## A. PREPARATIONS

Test preparations should be made at the beginning of a training course to ensure all requirements and values are adhered to. As each of the Scheme Awards has set standards and increases in difficulty the further you progress, planning all stages of the test will ensure events run smoothly.

## B. PROOF OF ACHIEVEMENT (SILVER AND GOLD)

Proof of achievement of the previous levels must be sought before testing commences.

## C. INVITING THE EXAMINER

Each Club/Organisation which is approved to host Good Citizen Dog Scheme Courses and testing sessions invites the Examiner to conduct the test. (Please refer to the Examiners Section). *Note: an Examiner acting as an individual cannot request stationery.*

## D. COMMUNICATION

Clear communication between the Club/Organisation and the Examiner before the testing sessions will ensure any confusion is avoided. Providing a suitable testing location and the relevant equipment should be part of the Club/Organisation's commitment to the test.

## E. BRIEFING STUDENTS

Ensure that all participants taking the test are briefed as to what to bring with them and what to expect during the test. It is advisable to include a practice session prior to the test, which will help your students to understand the test requirements and how procedures may be conducted.

## F. ALLOWING ENOUGH TIME

Ensure the test venue is booked for the correct date and time and that you have allowed enough time to test the number of students. As an approximate guide:

**To test 10 Bronze dogs will take 2 hours**

**To test 10 Silver dogs will take 2½ hours**

**To test 10 Gold dogs will take 3 hours**

## G. EXAMINER STYLE

Remember Examiners will have their own style of setting up and conducting a testing session, therefore it is worth practising various ways of achieving an exercise. Always refer to the object of the test for further clarification.

## H. USING AN APPROPRIATE VENUE

Ensure the venue(s) being used is appropriate to conduct the test(s) taking place. In the Silver and Gold Award tests, some of the exercises must be conducted at an outdoor location. Consideration as to the suitability of the location used is imperative to the smooth running of the test. Public Highways, isolated areas and environments with suitable distractions should be well thought out. Also if your Club or Organisation holds several training sessions in the same timeslot, it may be appropriate on the test day to reduce the number of training sessions or arrange different times for other training groups on that day. This will help to minimise disruption during the testing session.

## I. EXAMINER SUPPORT

Ensure the Examiner who has been invited to conduct the test has received a copy of the Description of the relevant test requirements,

a Responsibility And Care Sheet (this is included in the Canine Code) and a copy of the Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme Guidelines. Additional copies of this handbook can be purchased from the Kennel Club.

#### J. ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT

The gate or suitable doorway required for a Bronze test should be provided by the Club/ Organisation hosting the test.

#### K. STATIONERY

All paperwork required for a test should be obtained by the host organisation from the Kennel Club, through the completion of a stationery order form. Orders should be placed prior to the commencement of each new course and at least one month prior to the test date. Participants should have received all the relevant paperwork at the commencement of the course. Examiners may check this information to ensure all candidates have been fully briefed.

#### L. EVENTS

Where a Bronze Award test is taking place at an approved event (see 'Companion Dog Shows and Events' in this section) ensure participants have obtained a Description of the relevant test and a Responsibility and Care leaflet prior to the test. This will ensure participants are advised of all the eligibility requirements and equipment to bring with them. It is advisable to have some administration supplies available on the day.

#### M. STANDARDS REQUIRED

Consider the standard of your students and their dog's ability before putting them forward for the test. Whilst most dog training courses range in duration from six weeks upwards, even the most consistent dogs can act out of character in a test situation. Try and prepare students for all eventualities. Participants are permitted only one attempt at each exercise under test.

#### N. PRACTISING FOR TESTS

It is always advisable to practise an exercise in more than one place and in more than one way.

#### O. SAFETY CONCERNs

Occasionally students and their dogs may clearly have not reached the standard required to pass the test. As a Course Instructor, in the event of any safety concerns you may have which would put a dog, handler or Examiner at risk, you should ask the hosting Club or Organisation to take appropriate action, prior to the test. An Examiner should not be placed in a situation where a dog under test is likely to put them at risk or obstruct the test proceedings. Likewise, during a test, a student should not be placed in a situation which comprises the safety of their dog, due to insufficient control.

#### P. EXPENSES

When appointing an examiner for a test, take into account the distance the examiner will have to travel to the venue. Consider offering expenses where applicable. Refreshments are always well received, especially during long periods and outdoor testing. A small thank you gift can be a nice token of appreciation too.

#### Q. APPOINTING AN EXAMINER

It is advisable to appoint an external Examiner (see section 6 Examiners) who is not a member of your Club or Organisation. The Examiner must meet the Examining criteria and must not have been involved in the training of any of the students under test for that particular level.

#### R. STEWARDS

The caller steward should play no part in the manner in which the exercises making up the test are conducted. This is entirely at the discretion of the examiner. Examiners must ensure that their testing instructions

are complied with. *Note: It is advisable to use someone other than the class instructor to act as the steward.*

#### S. COMPLETING THE PAPERWORK

The Examiner should complete the Test Sheet during the test and this information is then transferred onto the Test Register form. The Test Register form is returned to the Good Citizen Dog Scheme office and the Test Sheet form is kept by the hosting Training Club/ Organisation. It is advisable for the Club/ Organisation to keep a copy of the Test Register also for their records. Test Register forms should be returned to the Good Citizen Dog Scheme office within 28 days following the test date.

#### T. ATTEMPTING MULTIPLE TEST AWARDS

It is recommended that only one level per dog is attempted. Attempting two levels on the same day with the same dog is permitted although in this instance a different examiner must be used for each level. Attempting three awards on the same day is not permitted. A dog may attempt the same test level more than once with a different handler. Emphasis is placed on the handler's ability to handle, care for and generally be responsible for their dog. A dog must pass each exercise in order to receive a certificate. Under test, if a dog is deemed 'Not Ready', it must re-take all exercises the next time it is tested in order to receive a certificate.

#### U. PRESENTING THE CERTIFICATES

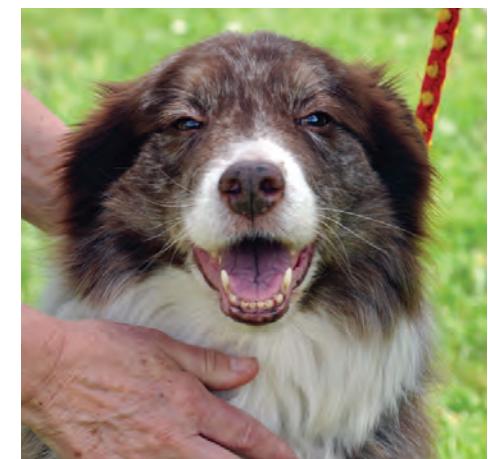
Achieving a Good Citizen Dog Scheme Award is a worthwhile accolade and therefore when students have achieved the required standards, the presentation ceremony for these awards should be meaningful. Where possible, try to conduct this in a group environment and make the most of the successes that have been gained.

#### V. COMPANION DOG SHOWS & EVENTS

Only Bronze Award tests can be conducted at Companion Dog Shows under supervision and approval of a Kennel Club Registered or Kennel Club GCDS Listed Status organisation. At these events only Kennel Club A List Examiners (Examiners who have passed a KCGCDS Examiner Assessment Course - see section 6 Examiners) will be permitted to examine. Silver and Gold testing sessions are not allowed to be conducted at Companion Dog Shows. Special permission may be granted to other specific 'one day events' hosted by a Kennel Club Registered or Kennel Club GCDS Listed Status organisation providing the event meets with approval of the Good Citizen Dog Scheme office and is subject to specified criteria relating to venue safety and examining standards. In these instances, clubs should contact the GCDS office directly for further information.

#### W. GUEST ATTENDEES

It is acceptable to have a guest handler and dog attend a testing session with the agreement of the Club/Organisation.





## ADVERTISING AND PUBLICITY

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## ADVERTISING AND PUBLICITY

### A. ADVERTISING

Posters have been prepared to allow a space for your Club's contact name and telephone number or perhaps details of the venue used for your Club's training sessions. This information should be added to the posters before distribution. It is suggested that POSTERS and LEAFLETS are distributed to Libraries, Veterinary Surgeries, Schools, Council Offices, park notice boards, local shops and any other suitable available outlet with the dates/times of Good Citizen Dog Scheme training sessions.

### B. KENNEL CLUB LOGOS

The Kennel Club logos and Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme are the trademark and copyright property of the Kennel Club and should not be copied or duplicated. It is not permitted to use the Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme logo on any website, Club documentation, merchandise or stationery. Special permission to use the logo for articles and media coverage should be requested from the GCDS office.

### C. PUBLICITY

A separate publicity information sheet is supplied with each Good Citizen Dog Scheme administration pack, which provides the latest information and Scheme details. The Kennel Club Press Office can provide your organisation with a list of local press within your area. Please contact the Good Citizen Dog Scheme office for further details.

It is essential for the success of this Scheme that publicity is continuous through newspaper articles, distribution of posters and "word of mouth".

### D. PUBLIC RELATIONS

A Press Release has been prepared (available with your pack) which can be adapted and sent to the local papers with suitable pictures of your organisation's training sessions. At first it would be advisable to send this information to the papers at the commencement of each training session, and a short article providing details about your organisation could also be prepared with pictures following each test night.

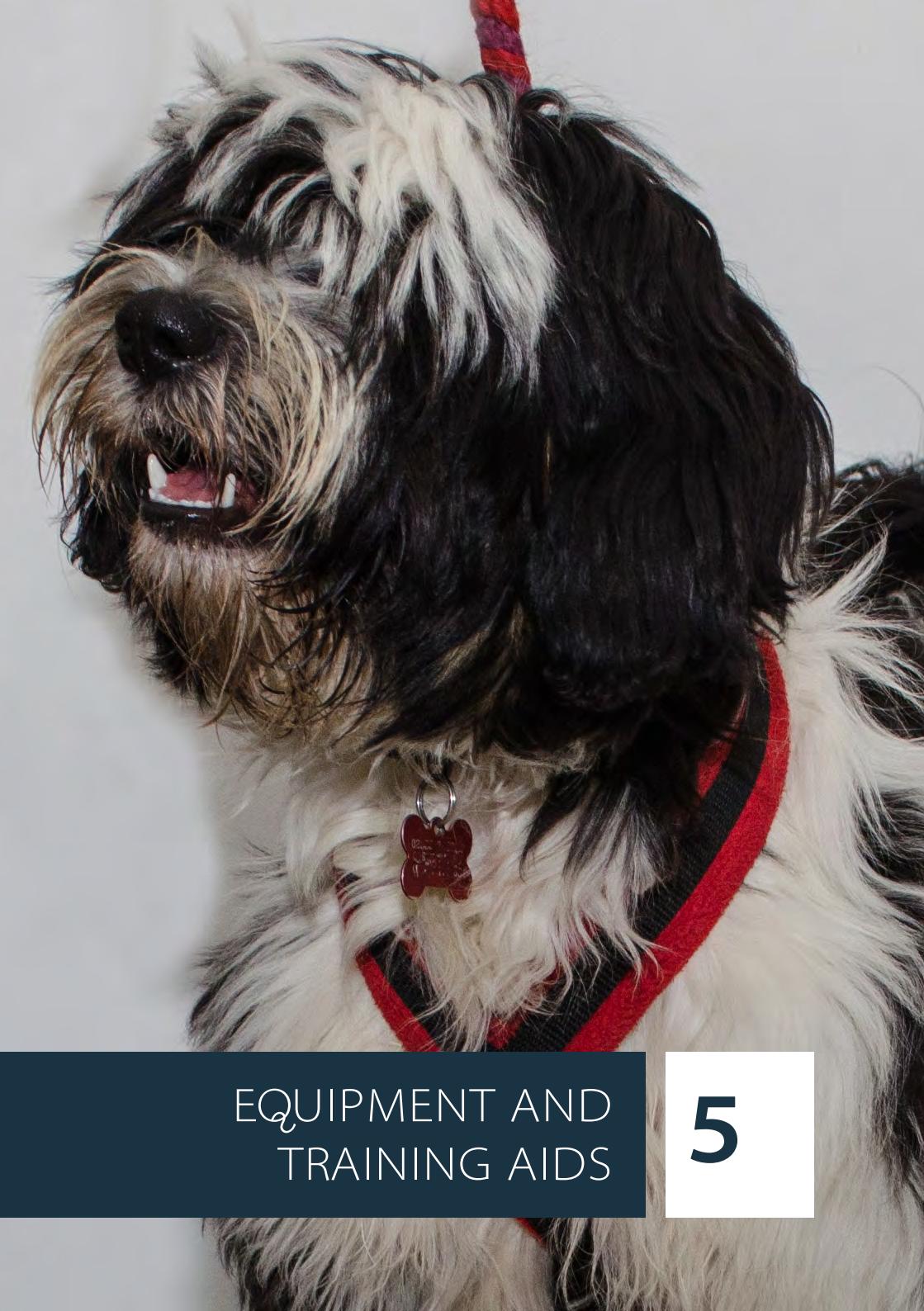
### E. INVITING DIGNITARIES

You could invite the Mayor, local Councillors, dignitaries, celebrities, editors of local press etc. to a training session, a test night or to present the Certificates. Provided advanced publicity of these visits is given by an advertisement in the local paper, or a letter to the paper suggesting a reporter be present, this will attract the general public. To improve the chances of publication, it is advisable to send an article to the local paper, preferably with a photograph.



# EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING AIDS

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## EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING AIDS

### A. TOYS, FOOD & CLICKERS

Toys, food and clickers can be useful training aids. During a testing session, unless required as part of the exercise, they should not be carried in the hand or used during the test exercises.

### B. SLIP LEADS AND BODY HARNESSSES

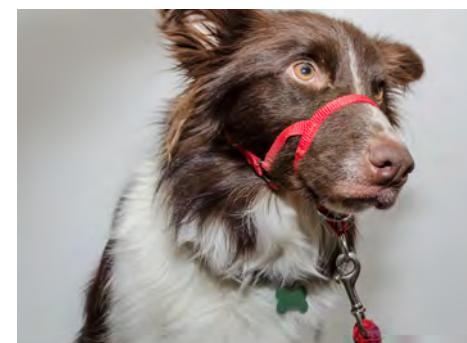
Slip leads and Body Harnesses are permissible providing they are suitable for the type/breed of dog. All equipment must be attached to a lead also with the name and the address of the owner inscribed on the collar or on a plate or tag attached to it.

### C. MUZZLES

Muzzles are not permitted to be used during Puppy Foundation Assessments, or Bronze, Silver and Gold Award testing sessions. Dogs who are licensed by law to wear a muzzle in a public place and who would like to take the Bronze Award Test should contact the Good Citizen office.

### D. HEAD COLLARS

Head Collars are permitted and must be



attached to a lead. A dog is still required by law to wear a collar with legally compliant information on it, even if it is not attached to the lead. The equipment used must be safe and suitable for the dog under test. Examiners can reserve the right to insist that the handler secures the dog with an additional lead, if the equipment used is deemed inadequate.

### E. CITRONELLA OR ANTI-BARK COLLARS

Citronella or anti-bark collars are not permitted to be used during a Good Citizen Dog Scheme test.

### F. ELECTRIC SHOCK COLLARS,

Spike Collars or Pinch Collars Electric shock collars, spike collars or pinch collars are not permitted to be used during Good Citizen Dog Scheme training sessions, Puppy Foundation courses, or Bronze, Silver and Gold Award testing sessions.

### G. WHISTLES

Whistles may be used during training and testing sessions.





## EXAMINERS

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# EXAMINERS

Clubs and organisations hosting tests should note the changes to the criteria for examiners which came into force from 1 May 2014.

### A. CRITERIA FOR EXAMINERS

The Club or Organisation hosting a test must appoint an examiner and must satisfy themselves that the person they appoint meets the Scheme's Examiner qualifications and is able to complete the task proficiently. This point cannot be stressed highly enough. Following the amendments to examiner criteria introduced from 1 May 2014, **all** Bronze, Silver or Gold tests must be examined by an examiner whose name appears on either the A list or the B list of Good Citizen Dog Scheme Examiners. Up to date lists of all A and B list examiners for a particular region may be obtained at any time on request from the Good Citizen Dog Scheme office.

### KENNEL CLUB GOOD CITIZEN DOG SCHEME APPROVED EXAMINERS

#### I. A LIST EXAMINERS

Examiners whom the Good Citizen Dog Scheme would support to examine and who have passed the Examiner Assessment Course at the following levels:

**A1 List** (*up to and including Gold level*) Have received a pass at the Bronze, Silver and Gold Award levels of the Good Citizen Dog Scheme Examiner Assessment Course.

**A2 List** (*up to and including Silver level*) Have received a pass at the Bronze and Silver Award levels of the Good Citizen Dog Scheme Examiner Assessment Course.

**A3 List** (*Bronze level only*) Have received a pass at the Bronze Award level of the Good Citizen Dog Scheme Examiner Assessment Scheme.

*Note: Examiners who are placed on the A2 and A3 Examiner list may also feature on the B list, due to meeting the Scheme's criteria through previous examining experience at Silver and Gold Award levels.*

#### II. B LIST EXAMINERS

Examiners who were qualified at 30 April 2014 under the former criteria (listed below), and who had acted as a Good Citizen Dog Scheme test examiner for Bronze and/or Silver and/or Gold Award levels in the 5 years prior to 30 April 2014, and who successfully applied for inclusion on the Good Citizen Dog Scheme B list of Examiners within the set deadline.

B List examiners' experience is reflected by placing the relevant notification i.e. B = Bronze, S=Silver or G=Gold by the individual examiner name (based on examining experience notified to the Good Citizen Dog Scheme office). Examiners on the B list are eligible to examine at all levels (Bronze, Silver and Gold) and will remain eligible to examine without time limit.

#### FORMER CRITERIA ON WHICH ELIGIBILITY FOR INCLUSION ON THE B LIST WAS BASED:

**Kennel Club Judge** – A person who judged at Kennel Club Licensed events on a regular basis. This applied to Open or Championship show level in Obedience, Agility, Working Trials and Breed Shows. Field Trials (Panel Judges) and Gundog Working Test judges who had handled and trained dogs to gain Field Trial or Gundog Working Test awards.

**Member of the British Institute of Professional Dog Trainers** – This applied to Associate Members, Full Members, and

Graduate and Advanced grades. Also First Grade instructors with three years training experience, obtained prior to 1/1/2003.

**Police or Service Dog Handler** – A Police or Service dog handler who has a good understanding of dog training and the Good Citizen Dog Scheme testing standards.

**Dog Warden** – A Dog Warden who has a good understanding of dog training and the Good Citizen Dog Scheme Testing Standards.

*Note: applications for the B list have closed. All new examiners will have taken and passed the GCDS Examiner Assessment Course at the relevant level of achievement i.e. Bronze, Silver and/or Gold. Examiner Assessment Courses are held throughout the year and across the country at all levels. For details please consult the Scheme website [www.gcgs.org.uk](http://www.gcgs.org.uk) or contact the Good Citizen Dog Scheme office.*

## B. APPOINTING AN EXAMINER

It is advisable where possible to appoint an Examiner who is not a member of the Club/Organisation hosting the test. The Examiner must meet the Examining criteria and in all cases must not have been involved in the training of any of the students under test for that particular level.

## C. FINDING AN EXAMINER

The Good Citizen Dog Scheme can provide up to date details of A List and B List Examiners throughout the UK or for any particular county or region, as generated from the database of qualified Examiners. As new examiners are approved throughout the year, host organisations may wish to request regular updates to their local examiner lists.

## D. NOTICE

An Examiner should be given as much notice as possible. Ideally they should be invited at the beginning of a training course so that preparations can be made.

## E. CLEAR UNDERSTANDING

Ensure the Examiner has a clear understanding of the aims, objectives and standard required for each test level they will be invited to examine. They should have a copy of the Scheme Description and Responsibility and Care leaflet prior to the test.

## F. COMMUNICATION

The Examiner you are considering appointing must be a person who can communicate the Scheme's requirements and instructions clearly and concisely so as to avoid confusion. The proposed Examiner must be able to give instructions to the students under test that are specific and should be repeated if necessary.

## G. EXAMINING EXPERIENCE

The Club/Organisation should ask a range of question to establish the Examiner's experience, e.g have they examined the award level before and if so did they do a good job? Have they passed that particular award level with their own dog? This is not a compulsory requirement but it may help a Club/Organisation in ascertaining how much understanding an Examiner has of the Scheme's requirements.

## H. SCHEME PAPERWORK

Examiners are not responsible for providing the Scheme's paperwork for testing and sessions cannot be conducted without the correct paperwork. It is the responsibility of the Club or Organisation hosting the test to order and provide all the required stationery.

## I. TESTING STYLES

Examiners will have their own style of setting up and conducting each exercise. Within the Scheme's guidelines, it is up to the Examiner to specify how each test should be conducted,



bearing in mind that each test has a clearly defined objective.

## J. PRACTISING FOR TESTS

It is always advisable to practise an exercise in more than one place and in more than one way.

## K. STEWARDS

The caller should play no part as to the manner in which the exercises making up the test are conducted. This is entirely at the discretion of the examiner. Examiners must ensure that their testing instructions are complied with. *Note: It is advisable to use someone other than the class instructor to act as the steward.*

## L. INTRODUCTIONS

Examiners should always introduce themselves and try to put candidates at ease. Remember that most handlers under test will be nervous.

## M. TEST REQUIREMENTS

It is advisable that the Club/Organisation

discuss the test requirements before the test takes place; this can be done upon invitation and will help to avoid any confusion.

## N. SAFETY CONCERN

An Examiner should not be placed or place themselves in a situation where a dog under test is likely to put them at risk or obstruct the test proceedings. Likewise, during a test, a handler should not be placed in a situation which compromises the safety of their dog, due to insufficient control. Consider how you intend to conduct the exercises, and where applicable avoid multiple numbers of dogs off lead at any one time.

## O. COLLARS, LEADS AND EQUIPMENT

Examiners should always ensure that they have checked the condition and fit of the collar, lead and equipment for each dog under test prior to any movement exercise. If the equipment is faulty or does not fit correctly, it could put dogs at risk. A spare slip lead is always useful as this can be given to the handler to secure the dog, before the collar, lead and equipment on the dog is removed.

Examiners should not penalise handlers if a dog is presented for test wearing a collar that does not meet their own personal preferences. Providing the equipment is safe and suitable for the breed and size of dog under test, it meets the Scheme's requirements.

#### P. SETTING THE TEST

Examiners should consider where exercises are to be conducted. If you are not familiar with the training premises, arrive early and spend a little time planning where the most appropriate area would be to conduct each exercise. Do not place too many handlers in a small space; if testing over five handlers and dogs, split them into smaller groups. Dogs can be tested singly or groups. If testing in groups consider any safety implications i.e. too many dogs off lead at the same time. If testing singly, consider the overall time factor and the objectives of the exercises as distractions are required.

#### Q. EXAMINER'S KIT

These are some additional materials you may find useful during a testing session:

- I. Clip board
- II. Pen/pencil
- III. Stop watch
- IV. Sterilised wipes
- V. Spare slip lead
- VI. Description of Exercises (applicable to Award level)
- VII. Scheme Guidelines
- VIII. Canine Code (incorporating Responsibility and Care)
- IX. Wet weather clothing

#### R. COLLAR AND TAG

Any dog that is presented for testing should wear the correct identification details inscribed on the collar or on a tag, plate,

disc or barrel attached to it. The correct information required to be displayed is the name and the address of the owner. Handlers that present their dog for testing with the incorrect information on the collar/tag will be deemed ineligible to be tested. (Please refer to the eligibility section in the section for each award level and the law relating to this). The above requirements apply to any GCDS Award level including the Puppy Foundation Assessment.

Microchipping or tattooing are forms of permanent identification and add extra security, if your pet is lost or stolen. Microchipping has been compulsory in Northern Ireland since 2012, and will be compulsory in England, Scotland and Wales with effect from the 6th April 2016. However microchipping will not remove the legal requirement for all dogs to also bear the correct identification details on the collar or tag. Please refer to the Dog Law section for further information.

#### S. POOP SCOOPS

Handlers should carry a poop scoop with them at all times and pick up after their dog as required. This is part of the eligibility requirements for the Scheme. If a handler presents their dog for test without a poop scoop bag or equivalent, they are ineligible to be tested. Should a dog defecate during a testing session, providing the handler picks up after the dog, no further action should be taken.

#### T. COMPLETING THE PAPERWORK

The Examiner should complete the Test Sheet during the test and this information is then transferred onto Test Register form. The Test register form is returned to the Good Citizen Dog Scheme and the Test Sheet form is kept by the hosting Training Club/Organisation. It is advisable for the Club/Organisation to also keep a copy of the Test Register for their records. Test Register forms should be returned to the Good Citizen Dog Scheme office within 28 days following the test date.

#### U. ATTEMPTING MULTIPLE TEST AWARDS

It is recommended that only one level per dog is attempted. Attempting two levels on the same day with the same dog is permitted although in this instance a different examiner must be used for each level. Attempting three award levels on the same day is not permitted. A dog may attempt the same test level more than once with a different handler. Emphasis is placed on the handler's ability to handle, care for and generally be responsible for their dog. It is advisable to discuss this with the host Club or Organisation prior to the test day to avoid confusion.

#### V. PRESENTING THE CERTIFICATES

Achieving a Good Citizen Dog Scheme Award is a worthwhile accolade and therefore when handlers have achieved the required standards, the presentation ceremony for these awards should be meaningful. Where possible try to conduct this in a group environment and make the most of the successes that have been gained. Always provide feedback to those who are deemed 'not ready' first and give constructive feedback so that students are aware of where improvements can be made.

#### W. EXAMINER ASSESSMENT COURSES

Examiner Assessment courses are conducted by the Kennel Club throughout the UK. The courses are available in Bronze, Silver or Gold Award levels and are presented in a one day course which is in three parts: seminar, written and practical assessments. Those achieving a pass grade will be automatically be added to the Scheme's A List Examiner database.

#### X. RETAKING THE TEST

When a handler presents a dog to retake a Good Citizen Dog Scheme test, all exercises must be retaken, not only the exercise that was deemed 'not ready' in the previous test.

#### Y. SECOND ATTEMPTS

Students are permitted only one attempt at each exercise under test, unless there are exceptional circumstances or where a dog has been clearly disadvantaged or interfered with. Examiners should be aware that they should give clear instructions to the handlers as to how they would like the exercise conducted in order to avoid confusion. Under test, if a dog is deemed 'Not Ready', it must retake all exercises the next time it is tested in order to receive a certificate.





## STATIONERY SUPPLIES

### A. HOW TO ORDER STATIONERY

Good Citizen Dog Scheme stationery accompanies all course levels and provides an educational and informative guide to the requirements and standards expected. A range of Scheme stationery is provided free of charge (but subject to a post and packing charge) to all Kennel Club Registered Clubs or Societies or Kennel Club Approved Listed Status Clubs or Organisations.

### B. STATIONERY ORDER FORMS

Stationery comes in batches of 10 and consists of all the briefing and testing materials required to set the standards, accompany a dog training session and conduct a test. All paperwork required for a test should be obtained from the Kennel Club, through the completion of a stationery order form. Orders should be placed prior to the commencement of each new course, or at least one month prior to the test date. The order is then sent to a named representative of the Club/Organisation within 14 days, subject to availability. The organisation hosting the test should then supply the Examiner with all the required paperwork on the test day. Stationery is provided for each part of the course as follows (the Club/organisation will also need to supply a workable microchip scanner for each test):

### I. PUPPY FOUNDATION DIARY

Upon enrolment of a Puppy Foundation course, distribute a diary to each participant. This diary should be kept by the puppy owner and completed throughout the course by the instructor to map a puppy's progress. At the end of the course, the puppy owner keeps the dairy.

### II. PUPPY FOUNDATION INFORMATION SHEET

On week one of a Puppy Foundation training course, this should be given out to all participants and accompanies the diary, description, Canine Code and Good Citizen Dog Scheme Leaflet.

### III. GOOD CITIZEN DOG SCHEME LEAFLET

Used for promotional purposes as an introduction to the Scheme's Award levels. Distribute to Puppy Foundation and Bronze level participants upon enrolment as part of the pre-course information.

### IV. DESCRIPTION SHEETS

Applicable to each participating level i.e. Puppy Foundation, Bronze, Silver and Gold. This outlines the requirements for each level of the Scheme's awards and should be given to all participants at the beginning of each course. A description sheet of the respective level should be supplied to the Examiner prior to test day. It is also advisable to have some description sheets of the subsequent award level(s) available, to hand out on test day to all test candidates who pass. This provides further information for candidates to progress.

### V. RESPONSIBILITY AND CARE BOOKLET

Provided as an accompaniment to each course syllabus. This highlights the many topical subjects related to dog ownership and care. It is presented as 100 important facts that educate and subsequently test an owner's knowledge and understanding. This is included within the Canine Code and each

relevant sections within the Bronze, Silver and Gold Descriptions.

#### VI. CANINE CODE

A booklet that provides an insight about the code of conduct for dog owners and is used to accompany Scheme literature. It forms part of the pre-course information that should be given to Puppy Foundation and Bronze Award students upon enrolment.

#### VII. TEST SHEET

(Applicable to Bronze, Silver and Gold levels). To be completed by the Examiner and used during a testing session. The test sheet is a log of the names of the handlers/ dogs taking part and their progress during the test. Each handler/dog receives a ‘pass’ or ‘not ready’ mark beside each exercise. Once all exercises have been tested, the final result of the test is also noted. This information is then transferred to the test register and the test sheet is then retained by the hosting club/ organisation.

#### VIII. TEST REGISTER

To be completed by the Examiner or Administrator after a Good Citizen Dog Scheme test has taken place and is then returned to the Good Citizen Dog Scheme office within 28 days. The name of each dog, handler, breed and final result is noted on this form. The host’s name and contact details, name and qualification of the Examiner and date of the test is also included at the top of the form.

#### IX. CERTIFICATE

A Certificate is given out to each successful candidate on test day. The certificate is completed by the Examiner using the information from the Test register form. It confirms the award level achieved, name of the dog, name of handler, the date of the test, the club hosting the test, the name of the instructor and the signature of the examiner.

Candidates who successfully pass a Good Citizen Dog Scheme Award level should keep the certificate safely as a record of their achievement as this may be required for future reference and to prove eligibility for further award levels and other events such as the Special Pre-Beginner Obedience Stakes. Duplicate certificates are not available from the Scheme.

#### X. ROSETTES, SOUVENIR TAGS AND PIN BADGES

Puppy Foundation, Bronze, Silver and Gold Rosettes are available and can be purchased on the stationery order form or by an individual online at [www.gcds.org.uk](http://www.gcds.org.uk). Bronze, Silver and Gold achievers can also purchase Souvenir pin badges and dog tags.

#### XI. ORDER FORMS

An order form for rosettes, tags and badges is provided as part of the Scheme’s materials and should be given to each candidate along with their certificate.





## DOG LAW

**IMPORTANT LAWS RELATING TO DOGS – IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOU CONTACT YOUR LOCAL AUTHORITY TO ASCERTAIN ANY LOCAL BYELAWS RELATING TO DOGS.**

### A. CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 2005

his legislation supercedes the Dogs Fouling of Land Act 1996 within England and Wales. The Act enables local authorities and parish councils to deal with fouling by dogs, ban

dogs from designated areas, require dogs to be kept on a lead and restrict the number of dogs that can be walked by one person. Note the Dogs Fouling of Land Act 1996 is still enforced by local authorities who chose not to adopt the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

### B. DOG FOULING (SCOTLAND) 2003

This legislation applies to Scotland to replace Section 48 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982. This Act makes it an offence to fail to clear up after a dog rather than simply allowing a dog to foul. It also allows local authorities and police constables to issue fixed penalty notices to persons suspected of committing the offence.

### C. CHANNEL ISLANDS

Have a dog licensing system that requires all dogs to be licensed with their Local Parish. Please check with your Local Parish for further information and what is required by law on the identification tag.

### D. DANGEROUS DOGS ACT 1991

Introduced to control the breeding of designated dangerous dogs (section 1) or to penalise owners of dogs that are dangerously out of control or showing aggressive tendencies (all breeds) (Section 3).

### E. (ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1992 SECTION 149-151)

#### I. STRAY DOGS

Which gives local authorities the power to seize and detain stray dogs.

#### II. CONTROL OF DOGS ORDER 1992

Every dog while on a public highway or place of public resort must wear a collar with the name and address of the owner inscribed on it or a plate or badge attached to it.

### F. VEHICLE TRAVEL

If a dog interferes with the driver of a vehicle whilst being carried within that vehicle, and this subsequently affects the way in which the vehicle is being driven, then an offence under the Road Traffic Act 1991 may be committed. Ref: Road Traffic Act 1991 (c40. sec 2A(4)).

### G. ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014

The Anti Social Behaviour Crime and Disorder Act 2014 (ASB Act 2014) was effective from October 2014. It will affect all dog owners in different ways throughout the UK in cases where dogs are considered to be causing anti social behaviour, or criminal acts. In particular, Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO's) may affect your daily walks, and Community Protection Notices (PCN's) may be issued if your dog becomes a nuisance. For further advice go to the [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk) website and look at the ASB Act 2014 practitioners guidelines, and also check with your local authority to see what PSPO's are in place for your area. In Scotland, the Control of Dogs Scotland Act 2010 allows local Authorities to issue dog control notices requiring the owner of a dog which has been out of control, to bring and keep their dog under effective control.

### H. COMPULSORY MICROCHIPPING

Microchipping has been compulsory in Northern Ireland since 2012, and will be compulsory in England, Scotland and Wales from 6th April 2016. Please refer to the defra website for the most up to date information. Owners are required to keep their contact details up to date on the appropriate microchip database and register the details of any new owner before they sell or give the dog away or face a fine. *NOTE: microchipping will not remove the legal requirement for all dogs to also bear the correct identification details on the collar or tag. All hosting Clubs will be required to provide a suitable microchip scanner.*



## PUPPY FOUNDATION AWARD

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## PUPPY FOUNDATION AWARD

### PUPPY FOUNDATION ASSESSMENT

#### LITERATURE TO GIVE OUT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE COURSE:

*Puppy Foundation Diary – Clubs/organisations might wish to hold onto at end of lesson*

*Description of Exercises*

*Puppy Foundation Information Sheet*

*Canine Code (includes Responsibility and Care)*

#### AIM

The Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme Puppy Foundation Assessment aims to provide a means of socialising puppies and to lay down a foundation for education and training.

On successful completion of the course puppies will respond to their handlers and the handlers will have an awareness of the responsibilities of dog ownership.

The inclusion of play exercises adds an extra dimension to a dog's life and can be used

to make training fun. Constructive play and suitable incentives are encouraged within this puppy training programme.

#### ELIGIBILITY

Age definition – up to a maximum of 12 months old. At their discretion the course organiser can set a minimum age for enrolment. A puppy must attend for a minimum of four weekly sessions. The course should be focused around the progress of the puppy and its owner over a period of time and not on the first or one particular meeting.

The enrolment of puppies onto the Puppy Foundation Assessment should be carefully monitored, especially to ensure that puppies complete the course before they reach the maximum age for this Scheme.

#### ASSESSMENTS

No part of the Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme is competitive and assessments should be carried out in a relaxed and informal manner. Remember that the course should be focused around the progress of a puppy and its owner over a period of time and not on the first or one particular meeting.

A Good Citizen Dog Scheme Puppy Foundation Certificate will be awarded when the required standard in all parts of the assessment have been achieved.

The Assessor will enter the comment "Passed" or "Not Ready" alongside each exercise. The puppy must receive the comment "Passed" for each exercise in one course in order to receive a Certificate. In any exercise aggressive behaviour from the puppy or undue fear will classify the puppy as "Not Ready".

Puppies that pass and puppies which reach the maximum age before they are ready to take the assessment should be encouraged to enrol at classes offering the Bronze Good Citizen Dog Scheme Award.

The class Instructor may act as the Assessor. The organisers of the course must ensure that

the Instructor they appoint is competent and able to fulfil the requirements of the course proficiently.

A dog may take a Good Citizen Dog Scheme Bronze Award test without having been awarded a Good Citizen Puppy Foundation Assessment Certificate. Unless otherwise stated practical assessments will be carried out on a lead.

#### HOW OLD DOES A PUPPY HAVE TO BE?

The minimum puppy age limit is at the discretion of the training course provider (club) taking into account the premises and training environment being used. Some training clubs may enrol puppies for their course from as young as 10 weeks, other clubs may ask that puppies have completed their second vaccination, whilst other training clubs may like puppies to be older still. The maximum age for a puppy to enrol will again depend on the individual training club, but will not exceed 12 months old on the date of week four of the assessment.

#### EXERCISE 1 – RESPONSIBILITY AND CARE

The object of this exercise is to educate the owner on the basic principles of owning a puppy. This exercise should be conducted as a talk or open discussion and puppy owners will be encouraged to participate and ask questions. This exercise can be conducted with the use of the Canine Code and Good Citizen Dog Scheme Puppy Foundation literature supplied with each course pack. These talks should cover all the basic topics related to owning a puppy, but must include the following:

- a. Cleanliness and identification
- b. Recognition of basic health problems
- c. Health protection for the puppy
- d. Teething, chewing and daily routine

e. House training and separation anxiety  
f. Socialisation with people and other dogs  
Other reading or video material may be recommended if desired.

*Note for Instructors:* Including this exercise as a weekly discussion is a good way of introducing a variety of topics and helps to cover subjects commonly encountered in puppies.

## EXERCISE 2 – CLEANLINESS AND IDENTIFICATION

Each handler must carry with them some form of “poop scoop” and all puppies must wear a collar and identification complying with the law. The owner should be reminded that they must always remove any fouling caused by their puppy and carry with them some form of “poop scoop”. It is a legal requirement to inscribe the name and the address of the owner on the collar or on a plate or disc attached to it. Furthermore it is a legal requirement to clean up after your puppy in public areas and dispose of the bag in an appropriate bin.

*Note for Instructors:* In UK, by law dogs are required to be microchipped and their details registered on an approved database (check exemptions). Dogs will be scanned by their owner prior to the completion of the assessment. It is not the responsibility of the Examiner to verify the details on the database. The owner is reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure their details are kept up to date. Even if a puppy is microchipped, you can be fined if your puppy is not wearing the correct identification on the collar. Telephone numbers are not compulsory but can be very helpful in returning your dog back to you in an emergency. Engraved tags can be purchased from the Kennel Club website. You will need a supply of poop scoop bags, sandwich bags, nappy sacks or carrier bags to take with you when you are out with your puppy.

The collar should be a comfortable fit. It should not be so loose that it can slip over the puppy’s head or so tight that you cannot slip two fingers underneath. Leads and equipment should be suitable for the size and breed and able to take the weight of the puppy. Ensure the lead is attached to the D ring and not onto the split ring that attaches the identity disc to the collar as this is not strong enough to take the weight of the collar.

Course instructors should advise handlers on the correct type of collar, lead and equipment used for each individual puppy.

## EXERCISE 3 – ATTENTIVE RESPONSE TO NAME

The puppy should know its name when spoken and at least pay brief attention. This assessment should be carried out on lead when the handler will call its name.

*Note for Instructors:* When training this exercise, the use of food or toys is permissible. During the Assessment no other words or incentives should be used.

## EXERCISE 4 – PLAY WITH THE PUPPY THE OBJECT IS TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE

puppy will play with its owner. When invited to do so the owner should commence to play with the puppy. Play should be under the owner’s control and if it involves articles they should not be dangerous and should be readily given up by the puppy. Play should be appropriate to the puppy under assessment but should not include play fighting.

*Note for Instructors:* This exercise can be done as a group, but do consider safety if puppies are positioned too close to each other. Ensure that all handlers keep their puppies on the lead and well spread out. It is advisable to teach puppies to play with and without toys. Squeaky toys can be helpful but can be a distraction to other dogs in the class.

If articles are used to play with the puppy, they should not be dangerous e.g. sharp, harmful objects or food. This exercise can provide a lot of distractions for a puppy, so practising this in small groups is preferable at first.

## EXERCISE 5 – SOCIALISATION

### A. WITH A PLACID DOG UNKNOWN TO THE PUPPY

The puppy will be carefully introduced on a lead to a suitable non-aggressive adult dog unfamiliar to the puppy. This is an assessment to determine sociability with other dogs. Relative size of the two animals should be considered. Aggressive behaviour or undue fear will classify the puppy as “Not Ready”. Playful growling, mild wariness or aloofness is acceptable.

*Note for Instructors:* It is apparent that the dog used for this exercise must be an adult dog that has a sound temperament. You must also consider the size of the dog being used against the size of the dogs in your class. During this exercise all dogs should be on lead. Ensure supervision during important interactions.

### B. WITH AN ADULT PERSON UNKNOWN TO THE PUPPY

The puppy will be carefully introduced on a lead to a man or woman unfamiliar to the puppy. They should gently make friends with the puppy without immediately descending upon it in friendship. Backing off and undue wariness should be classed as “Not Ready”.

*Note for Instructors:* During training sessions, use both male and female persons to interact with the puppy. Instructors should explain how to approach a puppy correctly. Where appropriate remove any hats, hanging jewellery, heavy coats etc. as these may frighten the puppy. Always approach the puppy from the front and let the puppy sniff the back of the hand before gently stroking the puppy

under the chin, then you can continue. A tall person being approached by a small dog may need to sit on a chair.

## C WITH NOISE DISTRACTION

The puppy should not be unduly startled or excited by normal day to day sounds and every care should be taken when undertaking this exercise. With the puppy on a lead, suitable noises should be made at least several paces from the puppy.

*Note for Instructors:* This exercise is designed to build a puppy’s confidence and should be conducted on a lead. Distractions are not incorporated to spook or distress a puppy. Using sound recordings with every day sound effects can be helpful and used as background noise during training sessions. Things that are dropped on the floor as a distraction should be conducted at a distance.

*It is a good idea to set puppy owners some homework between lessons and advise them to introduce their puppy to household sounds such as vacuum cleaners, the washing machine and a doorbell ringing etc. Care should be taken with puppies to introduce sounds gradually and from a distance. Sudden loud bangs such as firecrackers or loud noises too close to the puppy are NOT acceptable.*

## EXERCISE 6 – HANDLING AND INSPECTION TO MAINTAIN HEALTH

Preparatory to grooming, a puppy should allow handling of its body and inspection by its owner. Mild fidgeting and avoidance is acceptable. Definite aggressive behaviour should result in the classification “Not Ready”. This exercise will be conducted on a lead.

*Note for Instructors:* The handler should show the instructor how they can handle their own puppy. This exercise should be carried out on lead. The puppy should be taught to have its

*mouth, teeth, throat, eyes, ears, tail, stomach area and feet inspected when standing, sitting or lying down on either side or on its back. Gently towel drying a puppy when young (even if dry) is a good way of practising this exercise.*

*It is advisable to instruct the handler on how to approach this exercise and also to advise why handling and inspection is necessary. Health related problems such as eye discharge, an ear infection, split pads or lameness will require a veterinary surgeon to inspect a dog and therefore this exercise will build a puppy's confidence in this type of situation. Show how to open the mouth, run hands over the puppy's body and pick up a paw. Always approach this exercise with care. It may take several weeks to achieve this.*

### EXERCISE 7 – PUPPY RECALL

In an enclosed area handlers should in some way distance themselves from the puppy by at least two or three paces. They should recall, praise and secure the puppy. If necessary this assessment can be conducted away from the distractions of other dogs. It may involve any reasonable incentive to return and the owner may back away when the puppy starts to move. An assistant may hold the lead.

*Note for Instructors: This exercise could be conducted singly or in groups. If done in groups ensure sufficient distance between the puppies. If an assistant is used, they can hold the lead. Handlers should be advised that dogs should not be allowed to run free with a lead on. A long line can be used to assist when training this exercise. Some instructors may wish to progress a puppy further than the standard required.*

### EXERCISE 8 – BASIC PUPPY POSITIONS

The owner should demonstrate that the puppy will stand, sit and go down. Any reasonable incentives and assistance may be used and the order of positions may be at the

handler's choice. Each position need only be very briefly adopted. Any minor movements are acceptable.

*Note for Instructors: A stand position is required for inspecting, drying and grooming puppies. The sit position is required as a basic position of safety and control and can be used when examining a puppy. The down position is a safe and relaxed position for a puppy to take.*

*It is helpful to use inducements when training this exercise but these should be reduced and eventually ceased prior to assessment so that the puppy reaches the required standard.*

### EXERCISE 9 – WALKING IN A CONTROLLED MANNER

With the puppy on lead, and without distractions, the owner and puppy should walk for approximately 20 paces and include a turn. They should demonstrate that this can be done without undue inconvenience to themselves or others.

A tight lead does not necessarily result in classification "Not Ready". Note for Instructors: The puppy can be walked on either side and turns included can be right, left or about. Instructors should give advice on the correct length of lead for each handler and puppy. Leads should be suitable for the size and breed of the puppy, not too long, too short or too heavy, but should be able to take the weight of the puppy. Whatever type is preferred ensure the lead is attached to the D ring and not onto the split ring that attaches the identity disc to the collar as this is not strong enough to take the weight of the puppy.

Check collars, leads and equipment before conducting any movement exercises, as if equipment is faulty or does not fit correctly, puppies could be put at risk.

### EXERCISE 10 – STAY FOR APPROXIMATELY TEN SECONDS

With the puppy on lead and in any position the handler will be invited to tell the puppy to stay for approximately 10 seconds. The handler should then move 1 pace away, either to the side or in front of the puppy for the 10 second duration. The exercise is completed when the handler moves back towards the puppy. This exercise should be used as a foundation for future stay training.

*Note for Instructors: Allow plenty of space between each puppy so that no interference can take place.*

*If conducting a large class, conduct this exercise in smaller groups. There is no designated distance in this exercise, hence the handler walking to the end of the lead is sufficient. In training it is best to start with short distances and increase, although this is not a requirement of the assessment.*

### EXERCISE 11 – TAKE ARTICLE AWAY FROM THE PUPPY

Puppies must learn that they should give up articles when required. An article should be given to the puppy who should give it up when the handler attempts to take it away. The article will be of the handler's choice and suitable for the type of puppy being assessed but should not be food. If the puppy refuses to take

an article the Instructor may provide an alternative, however if the puppy will not take an article it should still be passed.

*Note for Instructors: Articles used should not be sharp or in any way dangerous and should not include food. Play fighting when releasing an article is not permitted and any signs of aggression are not acceptable. Instructors should give advice on how to remove an article from the puppy's mouth safely.*

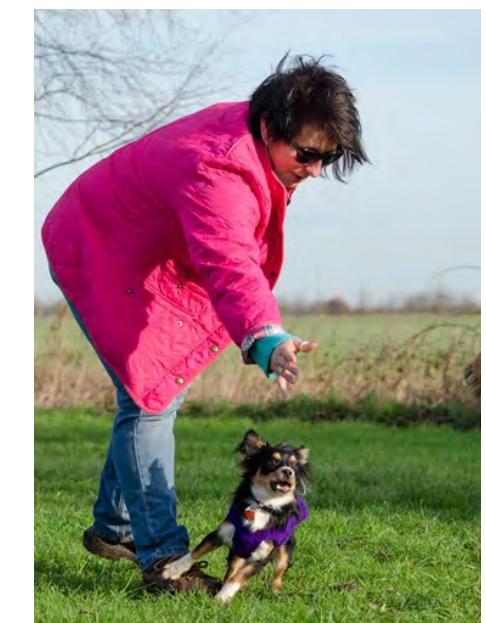
### EXERCISE 12 – FOOD MANNERS

The handler should demonstrate that the puppy can take a treat without snatching and

in a controlled manner. If the puppy refuses to take a treat, the Assessor may provide an alternative, however if the puppy will not take a treat it should still be passed.

*Note for Instructors: Teaching a puppy food manners is required in daily life situations. The purpose of this exercise is to stop a puppy from snatching or jumping up for food. Treats should be provided by the handler and should be of suitable size and type. Food portions used during this exercise should be taken out of the puppy's daily allowance. Some human foods are not suitable as treats and handlers need to be advised accordingly.*

*Treats should ideally be small enough so that the puppy can eat it in one go. Large chewable treats are not desirable for this exercise, although it is good to practise removing larger treats.*





## BRONZE AWARD

10

## BRONZE AWARD

**EMPHASIS IS PLACED ON THE HANDLER'S ABILITY TO HANDLE, CONTROL AND GENERALLY CARE FOR THEIR DOG IN A DOMESTIC ENVIRONMENT. SOME EXERCISES WILL BE EXTENSIONS OF THE PUPPY FOUNDATION AWARD.**

### LITERATURE TO BE GIVEN OUT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE COURSE:

*Description of Exercises  
(including Responsibility and Care)*

*Canine Code*

### AIM

The Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme Bronze Award aims to produce a dog that will walk and behave in a controlled manner on the lead, will stay in one position on command, will allow its owner to clean, groom and inspect it. The dog must also be able to be positioned by its handler for inspection i.e. stand, sit or lie down on either side or on its back, all on the lead. The dog must come to hand when called. The Bronze award aims to provide the handlers with a basic knowledge of understanding and training their canine companion.

### ELIGIBILITY

The Scheme is aimed at all dogs whether Kennel Club registered or not; there is no age limit. For the Bronze Test, dogs are not required to have completed the Puppy Foundation Assessment programme. Handlers must show that they have means of cleaning up after their dog and that it has correct identification that is legally compliant. With effect from the 6th April 2016 dogs are required to have a microchip which is registered on a DEFRA approved database, in the UK (check exemptions).

### STANDARD REQUIRED

The test is non competitive but Examiners

should be satisfied that dogs are worthy of passing. Examiners should also observe the spirit of the Scheme, which is to produce happy, contented dogs, which are well behaved, and under the control of handlers who fully understand the responsibilities to their dogs, to their neighbours and to the community.

Handlers are permitted only one attempt at each exercise under test, unless there are exceptional circumstances or where a dog has been clearly disadvantaged or interfered with. Examiners should be aware that they should give clear instructions to the handlers as to how they would like the exercise conducted in order to avoid confusion. A Certificate will be awarded when the required standard has been achieved.

Examiners can reserve the right to insist that the handler secures the dog in a safer manner if the equipment used is deemed inadequate. An additional lead could be used in this instance.

**Any uncontrolled mouthing, barking, growling or other threatening behaviour is not acceptable and further training will be required before the dog can be passed. In order for it to be meaningful the testing must be carried out thoroughly. Emphasis must be placed upon the ability of the handler to handle, care for and generally be responsible for their dog.**

Examiners should be aware that they should give clear instructions to the handlers as to how they would like the exercise conducted in order to avoid confusion.

### THE TEST

Dogs may be tested singly or in groups,

providing there is adequate distraction available to meet each exercise's criteria. Those passing all parts of the test will receive a Good Citizen Dog Scheme Bronze Certificate. The Examiner will enter the comment "Passed" or "Not Ready" along side each exercise. In order to receive a certificate, dogs must receive the comment "Passed" for each exercise during one testing session.

The Club/Organisation hosting the test will be responsible for appointing an Examiner and the standards required are stated in the Scheme's Guidelines and Information Handbook and should be strictly adhered to. It is the responsibility of the Club hosting the Test to provide a suitable microchip scanner.

### **DESCRIPTION OF EXERCISES: EXERCISE 1 – CLEANLINESS AND IDENTIFICATION**

Each handler must carry with them some form of "poop scoop" and all dogs must wear a collar and identification tag complying with the law. The owner should be reminded that they must always remove any fouling caused by their dog and carry with them some form of "poop scoop".

It is a legal requirement to inscribe the name and the address of the owner on the collar or on a plate or disc attached to it. Furthermore it is a legal requirement to clean up after your dog in public areas and dispose of the bag in an appropriate bin.

*Notes for Instructors and Examiners:* In UK, by law dogs are required to be microchipped and their details registered on an approved database (check exemptions). Dogs will be scanned by their owner. It is not the responsibility of the Examiner to verify the details on the database. The owner is reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure their details are kept up to date. Even if a dog is microchipped, you can be fined if your dog is not wearing the correct identification. Telephone numbers are not compulsory but

*can be very helpful in returning your dog to you in an emergency. Engraved tags can be purchased from the Kennel Club website. You will need a supply of poop scoop bags, sandwich bags, nappy sacks or carrier bags to take with you when you are out with your dog.*

### **EXERCISE 2 – COLLAR, LEAD AND EQUIPMENT**

The object of this exercise is that the handler learns how to put on and take off the collar, lead and equipment safely. It is important that the collar, lead and equipment are suitable for the type of dog and that the handler is able to fit them correctly.

*Note: A dog that becomes frightened can back out of a loose collar. Examiners can reserve the right to insist that the handler secures the dog in a safer manner if the equipment used is deemed inadequate. An additional lead could be used in this instance.*

*Notes for Instructors and Examiners:* Course instructors should advise handlers on the correct type of collar, lead and equipment used for each individual dog. A spare slip lead can be used to secure the dog whilst the handler removes the equipment. This will give the Examiner an opportunity to inspect at close range the condition of the collar, lead and equipment.

*The collar should be a comfortable fit. It should not be so loose that it can slip over the dogs head or so tight that you cannot slip two fingers underneath. Leads should be suitable for the size and breed and able to take the weight of the dog. Ensure the lead is attached to the D ring and not onto the split ring that attaches the identity disc to the collar as this is not strong enough to take the weight of the dog.*

### **EXERCISE 3 – WALK ON LEAD**

The object of this exercise is for the dog to walk on a loose lead without distractions. The handler and dog should walk for

approximately 30 paces and include some turns and should demonstrate that this can be done without undue inconvenience and the dog pulling forward or back.

*Note: Competition heelwork is not the aim but is acceptable. An occasional tight lead does not necessarily result in classification "Not Ready". The dog is permitted to walk on either side of the handler.*

*Notes for Instructors and Examiners:* Always check the condition and fit of the collar, lead and equipment of each dog taking part before you attempt this exercise. (Refer to the Collar, Lead and Equipment Exercise). Faulty equipment or a badly fitted collar could put dogs at risk. Consider the number of candidates being tested for this exercise. Smaller groups are easier to manage and observe. The duration of this exercise depends on the examiner, who should satisfy themselves that each handler and dog has been observed for all parts of the exercise. Long leads are permissible, but handlers should gather up the lead and not allow the dog to wander in any direction. Allow sufficient space between the dogs and give clear instructions to the handlers as to when the exercise will commence and where they should walk.

### **EXERCISE 4 – CONTROL AT DOOR/GATE**

The object of this exercise is for a handler and dog to walk through a gate/doorway under control and on a lead. The dog should not pull or be pulled through the gate/ doorway. When this exercise commences the dog can be in any position and should wait while the handler opens the gate/door and then proceeds to go through. The handler should then recall the dog through the gate/doorway on a lead. While the handler secures the gate, the dog should remain settled.

*Notes for Instructors and Examiners:* A correctly constructed test gate, an actual gate or

doorway must be used and not a substitute.

### **EXERCISE 5 – CONTROLLED WALK AMONGST PEOPLE AND DOGS**

The object is for the handler to remain in control of their dog whilst walking amongst people, dogs and distractions. The handler should walk for approximately 30 paces and include some turns. They should demonstrate that this can be done without undue inconvenience and the dog pulling forward or back. The dog should behave in a quiet, relaxed and controlled manner whilst the handler holds a conversation for one minute. The dog may adopt a stand, sit or down position at this time. This is not a stay exercise. Note: Competition heelwork is not the aim. An occasional tight lead does not necessarily result in classification "Not Ready". The dog is permitted to walk on either side of the handler.

*Notes for Instructors and Examiners:* Always check the condition and fit of the collar, lead and equipment of each dog taking part before you attempt this exercise. (Refer to the Collar, Lead and Equipment Exercise). Faulty equipment or a badly fitted collar could put dogs at risk. Consider the number of candidates being tested for this exercise. Smaller groups are easier to manage and observe. The duration of this exercise depends on the examiner, who should satisfy themselves that each handler and dog has been observed for all parts of the exercise.

*Allow sufficient space between the dogs and give clear instructions to the handlers as to when the exercise will commence and where they should walk. The distractions incorporated during this exercise should be selected carefully to avoid any distress. Sudden loud bangs such as firecrackers or loud noises too close to the dog are not acceptable. When testing in groups, other handlers can be used as a distraction and hold conversations with each other. Handlers taking part in this exercise*

should have firm control of their dog and not allow them to lunge out.

### **EXERCISE 6 – STAY ON LEAD FOR ONE MINUTE**

The object of this exercise is that the dog will stay on the spot in the same position while the handler moves away for one minute. The handler should remain in sight. The handler should place the dog on lead in any position i.e. stand, sit or down. Upon instruction, having quietly dropped the lead, the handler will move a distance of five paces away for a period of one minute. The time starts when the handler leaves the dog and it finishes when the handler returns to the dog's side and picks up the lead.

*Notes for Instructors and Examiners:* Always allow sufficient space between the dogs and give clear instructions to the handlers as to when the exercise will commence and where they should be positioned. Extra commands are permitted during this exercise, but these should not be excessive. The dog must stay in the position it is left in e.g. if the dog is left in the sit position, it must remain in the sit position until the end of the exercise. Dogs are only permitted one attempt at this exercise unless there are exceptional circumstances such as being interfered with by another dog under test. This however, is only at the discretion of the examiner.

### **EXERCISE 7 – GROOMING**

The object of this exercise is to test the handler's ability to groom the dog without a struggle. Grooming performed should be relevant to the individual dog, conducted on a lead and should include all parts of the dog's body. Handlers are required to provide their own grooming equipment.

*Note:* Any signs of aggression or nervousness while grooming the dog will be deemed "Not Ready". It is permissible for small dogs to be groomed on a table.

*Notes for Instructors and Examiners:* Handlers should be advised to bring grooming equipment with them that is suitable for their dog, i.e. specific to the coat type - short coated or long coated.

Instructors should teach handlers to groom all areas of the dog including the tail and dogs tummy. Loose hair should be disposed of in a suitable receptacle. Examiners should not impede the dog during the test. The lead must be held securely by the handler throughout the exercise.

### **EXERCISE 8 – EXAMINATION OF THE DOG**

The object of this exercise is to demonstrate that the dog will allow inspection of its body by its handler. This exercise will be carried out on a lead. The examiner will be shown how a handler can examine their own dog. The dog is to be placed for inspection of its mouth, teeth, throat, eyes, ears, stomach, tail and feet when standing, sitting or lying down as required. Other than mild avoidance, the dog should allow inspection without concern.

The lead must be held securely by the handler throughout the exercise. The lead, collar and equipment should not be used to restrain the dog. If required the Examiner can insist that if applicable a head collar or body harness is removed if it interferes with the inspection.

*Note:* It is the responsibility of training officials to ensure that only suitable dogs take part in this exercise. This is a most important exercise and will require considerable care, expertise and patience on the part of the instructor. The average new owner may find this exercise difficult and frustrating. The lead must be held securely by the handler throughout the exercise.

*Notes for Instructors and Examiners:* Care must be taken when setting up this exercise. It is imperative that instructors only put dogs of a sound temperament forward for this

exercise and dogs must be kept on a lead at all times. In preparation during training sessions, dogs should be familiar with all parts of their body being inspected before being put forward for testing. When testing this exercise examiners should always ask the handler first if the dog will allow inspection. Do not impede the dog. Put any clipboards down and where appropriate, remove any heavy outdoor clothing, hats or jewellery etc. Reassurance from the handler throughout this exercise is acceptable. When observing the dog the examiner should not stand too close. Dogs should not be pulled or forced to adopt a position. Handlers may assist by repositioning their dog where necessary. Examiners should not put themselves at risk.

### **EXERCISE 9 – RETURN TO HANDLER**

The object of this exercise is for a dog to return to its handler when instructed to do so. The handler will release the dog from its lead, play with or without a toy, or in some other way distance themselves 10 paces away from the dog. When directed to do so, the handler should call the dog. Having rejoined, the dog should stop close to the handler in any position and the lead shall be replaced. *Note:* The handler is to be advised not to let the dog run uncontrolled in open spaces such as woods, parks and farmland.

*Notes for Instructors and Examiners:* This exercise should be conducted off lead and only dogs that are likely to return to their handler without delay should be put forward for this exercise. Dogs may be left in any position. When testing this exercise in groups, examiners should not put anyone at risk, and only have one dog off the lead at any one time.

*When testing outdoors, prior to commencement, always ask the handler whether the dog is likely to return and explain the exercise fully. As there is no requirement for*

*the dog to wait, a spare lead can be slipped through the collar to secure the dog, while the handler distances themselves 10 paces away. The spare lead should be slipped through the collar by the handler and then held by the examiner, until the handler is in place to recall the dog. The examiner should then release the dog from the spare lead.*

### **EXERCISE 10 – RESPONSIBILITY AND CARE**

The object of this exercise is to test the knowledge of the handler on specific subjects relating to owning a dog. The Examiner should construct questions based on section one of the Responsibility and Care section in the Canine Code.

Topics include – a dog's needs, illness and responsibilities of ownership. The questions should not be phrased in an ambiguous manner and where necessary, examiners should rephrase the same question in an attempt to bring out the correct answer from the handler. At the start of each training course, in addition to the Description, handlers should be given a copy of the Canine Code. There should be a discussion period during which the importance of correct socialisation can be explained, problems discussed and advice given on choosing a suitable collar, lead, equipment and identity disc.

*Note:* Only one numbered item may constitute a question. The handler should be able to give three out of six correct answers from section one of Responsibility and Care

*Notes for Instructors and Examiners:* This exercise can be conducted verbally as a question and answer session or in conjunction with other test exercises. It should not be given as a written test. When testing it is advisable to have a variety of questions prepared.

## SILVER AWARD

11



## SILVER AWARD

### LITERATURE TO BE GIVEN OUT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE COURSE:

*Description of Exercises  
(including Responsibility and Care)*

*Canine Code*

### AIM

The Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme Silver Award aims to build upon the skills learned in the Bronze Award whilst increasing the level of difficulty. The Silver Award is a natural progression of practical dog training skills and introduces new concepts such as the controlled greeting, road walk and vehicle control exercises which are important in everyday life situations. The Silver Award aims to provide handlers with a good knowledge of understanding and training their canine companion.

### ELIGIBILITY

The Scheme is aimed at all dogs whether Kennel Club registered or not, there is no age limit. For the Silver Test Examiners will only accept dogs that have already been awarded a Bronze Award Certificate. Handlers must show that they have means of cleaning up after their dog and that it has proper Identification that is legally compliant. With effect from the 6th April 2016 dogs are required to have a microchip which is registered on a Defra-approved database, in the UK (check exemptions). Examiners are required to check each dog's eligibility and the suitability of their collar, lead and equipment prior to the test commencing.

### STANDARD REQUIRED

The test is non competitive but Examiners should be satisfied that dogs are worthy of

passing. Examiners should also observe the spirit of the Scheme, which is to produce happy, contented dogs, which are well behaved, and under the control of handlers who fully understand the responsibilities to their dogs, to their neighbours and to the community.

Handlers are permitted one attempt at each exercise under test unless there are exceptional circumstances or where a dog has been clearly disadvantaged or interfered with. Examiners should be aware that they should give clear instructions to the handlers as to how they would like the exercise conducted in order to avoid confusion. A Certificate will be awarded when the required standard has been achieved.

Examiners can reserve the right to insist that the handler secures the dog in a safer manner if the equipment used is deemed inadequate. An additional lead could be used in this instance.

**Any uncontrolled mouthing, barking, growling or other threatening behaviour is not acceptable and further training will be required before the dog can be passed. In order for it to be meaningful the testing must be carried out thoroughly. Emphasis must be placed upon the ability of the handler to handle, care for and generally be responsible for their dog.**

### THE TEST

Dogs may be tested singly or in groups, providing there is adequate distraction available to meet each exercise's criteria. Those passing all parts of the test will receive a Good Citizen Dog Scheme Silver Certificate. The Examiner will enter the comment "Passed" or "Not Ready" along side each exercise. In order to receive a certificate, dogs must receive the comment "Passed" for each

exercise during one testing session.

The Club/Organisation arranging the test will be responsible for appointing an Examiner and the standards required are stated in the Scheme's Guidelines and Information Handbook and should be strictly adhered to. It is the responsibility of the Club hosting the Test to provide a suitable microchip scanner.

### **EXERCISE 1 – PLAY WITH THE DOG**

The object of this exercise is to demonstrate that the dog will play with its handler with or without a toy. Play adds an extra dimension to a dog's life and can be used to make training fun. When instructed to do so the handler should commence to play with the dog. Play should be under the handler's control and if it involves articles they should be readily given up by the dog.

*Note: Play should be appropriate to the dog under test but should not include play fighting. Formal retrieves will not be deemed as appropriate play. It is recommended that the Examiner commences with this exercise.*

*Notes for Instructors and Examiners: Dogs can be tested singly or in groups. If testing more than one dog ensure that no more than one dog is off the lead at any one time. Food cannot be used during this exercise. During training sessions it is advisable to encourage handlers to play with or without a toy.*

### **EXERCISE 2 – ROAD WALK**

The object of this exercise is to test the ability of the dog to walk on a lead under control on a public highway. This exercise should be carried out at a suitable outdoor location and an occasional tight lead is acceptable. The handler and dog should walk along a pavement, execute a turn, then stop at the kerb where the dog should remain steady and controlled. Having observed the Highway Code, they should proceed to the other side, turn and continue walking. Distractions

should be incorporated such as passing vehicles or bicycles, people, wheelchairs, prams, pushchairs, etc. Note: *The turns are only tests of ability to change direction.*

*Notes for Instructors and Examiners: This exercise must be conducted on a suitable public highway and not a simulated environment. You do not have to use a public highway that is adjacent to the Club's/ Organisation's premises if it is not suitable. In this instance, the location of this exercise can be moved to another more suitable location e.g. town centre. Always check the condition and fit of the collar, lead and equipment of each dog taking part before you attempt this exercise. (Refer to the collar, lead and equipment exercise featured in the Bronze Award test). Faulty equipment or a badly fitted collar could put dogs at risk.*

*Consider the number of candidates being tested for this exercise. Smaller groups are easier to manage and observe. The duration of this exercise depends on the Examiner, who should satisfy themselves that each handler and dog has been observed for all parts of the exercise. Long leads are permissible, but handlers should gather up the lead and not allow the dog to wander in any direction. Dogs should not be off lead at any time during this exercise. Other handlers and dogs may be used as distractions. Reflective clothing is advantageous if training or testing in more rural areas or at night. Competition heelwork is not the aim, but is acceptable.*

### **EXERCISE 3 – REJOIN HANDLER**

The object of this exercise is for the dog to remain steady, off lead, while the handler moves away; the dog will then rejoin when instructed to do so. Having left the dog and moved approximately ten paces away, when directed to do so, the handler should call the dog. Having rejoined, the dog should stop close to the handler in any position, and the lead shall be replaced.



*Note: The dog should not rejoin until instructed, but minor anticipation will be acceptable.*

*Notes for Instructors and Examiners: This exercise should be conducted off lead and only dogs that are likely to return to their handler without delay should be put forward for this exercise. Dogs may be left in any position. When testing this exercise in groups, examiners should not put anyone at risk, and only have one dog off the lead at any one time.*

### **EXERCISE 4 – STAY IN ONE PLACE FOR TWO MINUTES**

The object of this exercise is that the dog will stay on the spot in the same position while the handler moves away for two minutes. The handler should remain in sight. The handler should place the dog with the lead attached in any position of their choice i.e. stand, sit or down. Upon instruction, having quietly dropped the lead, the handler will move a distance of five paces away for a period of two minutes. The time starts when the handler leaves the dog and it finishes when the handler returns to the dog's side and picks up the lead.

*Note: This exercise is a test to see if the dog will stay in one place without changing position. The dog must stay in the position it is left in.*

*Notes for Instructors and Examiners: Always allow sufficient space between the dogs and give clear instructions to the handlers*



*as to when the exercise will commence and where they should walk. Extra commands are permitted during this exercise, but these should not be excessive. The dog must stay in the position it is left in e.g. if the dog is left in the sit position, it must remain in the sit position until the end of the exercise. Dogs are only permitted one attempt at this exercise unless exceptional circumstances apply such as being interfered with by another dog under test. This however, is only at the discretion of the examiner.*

### **EXERCISE 5 – VEHICLE CONTROL**

The object of this exercise is for the handler to get the dog in and out of a vehicle in a controlled manner. The dog should remain quiet, relaxed and under control during this exercise. Without pulling, the dog should be taken on lead towards a vehicle and remain steady whilst the handler opens the vehicle door. The dog should not attempt to get in until instructed but should then enter willingly and the door should be closed. The handler, Examiner and, if necessary, a driver will get into the vehicle. The engine should be started and run for a short time to enable the examiner to assess the affect upon the dog, which at all times, should remain quiet, relaxed, under control and not at any time become a nuisance to the driver. The dog will then be instructed to exit in an orderly manner, on lead. The handler should then close the door with the dog calmly under control

*Note: Only physically able dogs should be invited to jump into the vehicle and where appropriate, dogs may be lifted in and out of the vehicle. It is highly recommended that when travelling, dogs are secure in a vehicle. However, dogs should not be penalised if handlers do not use specific types of equipment recommended for safe canine travel.*

*Notes for Instructors and Examiners: A vehicle must be used for this exercise and should preferably be one that the handler and dog have travelled in. During training sessions, if a handler does not have their own vehicle, it is advisable to practise this exercise in a vehicle that could be used during the test. The dog should allow the Examiner's entry into the vehicle without undue agitation. Compliance to safe canine travel recommendations are not compulsory, however when inside the vehicle, the dog should be settled and in no way impinge upon the driver. Practising and testing this exercise can be time consuming and careful planning and preparation before hand will help things run smoothly.*

## EXERCISE 6 – COME AWAY FROM DISTRACTIONS

The object of this exercise is for the handler to remain in control of their dog when there are distractions. The handler should take the dog, on lead, to a gathering of people with dogs also on lead. When instructed to do so, the lead should be removed and the handler should walk or run away calling the dog, which should return without delay and be placed on the lead.

*Note: Dogs of an unruly nature will not take part in this exercise or be part of the group.*

*Notes for Instructors and Examiners: This exercise should be conducted off lead and only dogs that are likely to return to their handler without delay should be put forward for this exercise. Dogs may be left in any position. Examiners should not put anyone at risk and*

*only one dog should be taken off the lead at any one time. No food or toys should be used during this exercise. Other handlers taking part in this exercise should have firm control of their dog and not allow them to lunge out. Other distractions used during this exercise should be chosen appropriately.*

## EXERCISE 7 – CONTROLLED GREETING

The object of this exercise is to demonstrate that the dog will not jump up. Should this happen, the handler must be able to successfully instruct the dog to cease. The Examiner will greet the dog as they may do when entering a house. A dog that does not jump up will pass.

*Note: The Examiner should not over incite the dog to jump up. A dog displaying poor temperament will not pass.*

*Notes for Instructors and Examiners: The dog should be on a lead at all times. When testing this exercise, the Examiner should always speak to the handler first.*

## EXERCISE 8 – FOOD MANNERS

The object of this exercise is for the dog to have good manners when aware of food. Food should be handled or consumed while the dog, on a loose lead, is taken in close proximity to it. The dog should not unduly respond to this temptation, i.e. not beg for food or steal. Note: The Examiner should be satisfied that the dog has been taken close enough to the food to be aware of it.

*Notes for Instructors and Examiners: Care should be taken when setting up this exercise. Examiners should not put themselves at risk whereby a dog could be put at face level and therefore attempt to snatch or steal food. Equally the Examiner should not over tempt the dog. Food used during this exercise should be enticing to a dog. Handlers may, if required, gently*

*reassure their dog throughout this exercise.*

## EXERCISE 9 – EXAMINATION OF THE DOG

The object of this exercise is to demonstrate that the dog will allow inspection of its body by a stranger as might be undertaken by a veterinary surgeon. The dog on lead will be required to be placed for inspection of its mouth, teeth, throat, eyes, ears, stomach, tail and feet whilst standing, sitting or lying down as required. Other than mild avoidance, the dogs should allow inspection without concern.

The lead must be held securely by the handler throughout the exercise. The lead, collar and equipment should not be used to restrain the dog. If required the Examiner can insist that if applicable a head collar or body harness is removed if it interferes with the inspection.

*Note: It is the responsibility of training officials to ensure that only suitable dogs take part in this exercise. The handler may assist the examiner in opening the dog's mouth, so that the examiner can touch and inspect the mouth appropriately.*

*Notes for Instructors and Examiners: Care must be taken when setting up this exercise. It is imperative that instructors only put dogs of a sound temperament forward for this exercise and dogs must be kept on a lead at all times. In preparation during training sessions, dogs should be acquainted with different Examiners both male and female and familiar with all parts of their body being inspected before being put forward for testing. When testing this exercise, Examiners should always ask the handler first if the dog will allow inspection. Do not impede the dog. Put any clipboards down and where appropriate remove any heavy outdoor clothing, hats or jewellery, etc. Always approach the dog from the front and introduce yourself. Reassurance from the handler throughout this exercise is*

*acceptable. When examining the dog, care should be taken in carefully examining the dog and gently touching parts of the dog's body. Dogs should not be pulled or forced by the Examiner to adopt a required position. Handlers should assist by repositioning their dog where necessary. Examiners should not put themselves at risk.*

## EXERCISE 10 – RESPONSIBILITY AND CARE

The object of this exercise is to test the knowledge of the handler on specific subjects relating to owning a dog. The Examiner should construct questions based on sections one and two of Responsibility and Care.

Topics include – a dog's needs, illness, responsibilities of ownership, other responsibilities, children, barking, dogs and stationary vehicles and vehicle travel.

The questions should not be phrased in an ambiguous manner and where necessary, Examiners should rephrase the same question in an attempt to bring out the correct answer from the handler. At the start of each training course, in addition to the Description, handlers should be given a copy of the Canine Code. There should be a session during which the importance of these topics in every day life situations are discussed.

*Note: Only one numbered item may constitute a question. The handler should be able to give six out of eight correct answers from sections one and two of the Responsibility and Care.*

*Notes for Instructors and Examiners: This exercise can be conducted verbally as a question and answer session or in conjunction with other test exercises. It should not be given as a written test. When testing it is advisable to have a variety of questions prepared.*



## GOLD AWARD

LITERATURE TO BE GIVEN OUT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE COURSE:

*Description of Exercises  
(including Responsibility and Care)*

*Canine Code*

### AIM

The Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme Gold Award is the highest level of achievement of the Scheme. It builds upon the skills learnt in the Silver Award and develops more advance training skills of the dog and handler. The Gold Award is a

natural progression of practical dog training skills and introduces new concepts such as relaxed isolation, stop the dog and send the dog to bed exercises, which are important in every day life situations. The Gold Award aims to provide handlers with a greater knowledge and understanding of their canine companion. Dogs that are awarded a Gold Certificate should reach the required standards in all exercises and be a worthy representative of the Scheme's highest standard. Where possible it is preferable that certain exercises are tested at indoor or outdoor locations.

### ELIGIBILITY

The Scheme is aimed at all dogs whether Kennel Club registered or not. Dogs must be a minimum of 12 months old to be eligible to take part in a Gold Award Test. For the Gold Test, Examiners will only accept dogs that have already been awarded a Silver Award Certificate. Handlers must show that they have means of cleaning up after their dog and that it has proper identification which is legally compliant. With effect from the 6th April 2016 dogs are required to have a microchip which is registered on a Defra approved database, in the UK (check exemptions). Examiners are required to check each dog's eligibility and the suitability of their collar, lead and equipment prior to the test commencing.

### STANDARD REQUIRED

The test is non competitive but Examiners should be satisfied that dogs are worthy of passing. Examiners should also observe the spirit of the Scheme, which is to produce happy, contented dogs, which are well behaved, and under the control of handlers who fully understand the responsibilities to their dogs, to their neighbours and to the community.

Handlers are permitted only one attempt at each exercise under test, unless there are exceptional circumstances or where a dog has been clearly disadvantaged or interfered with. Examiners should be aware that they should give clear instructions to the handlers as to how they would like the exercise conducted in order to avoid confusion. A Certificate will be awarded when the required standard has been achieved.

Examiners can reserve the right to insist that the handler secures the dog in a safer manner if the equipment used is deemed inadequate. An additional lead could be used in this instance.

**Any uncontrolled mouthing, barking, growling or other threatening behaviour is not acceptable and further training will**

**be required before the dog can be passed. In order that it be meaningful the testing must be carried out rigorously. Emphasis must be placed upon the ability of the handler to handle, care for and generally be responsible for their dog.**

### THE TEST

Dogs may be tested singly or in groups, providing there is adequate distraction available to meet each exercise's criteria. Those passing all parts of the test will receive a Good Citizen Dog Scheme Gold Certificate. The Examiner will enter the comment "Passed" or "Not Ready" along side each exercise. In order to receive a certificate, dogs must receive the comment "Passed" for each exercise during one testing session.

The Club/Organisation arranging the test will be responsible for appointing an Examiner and the standards required are stated in the Scheme's Guidelines and Information Handbook and should be strictly adhered to. It is the responsibility of the Club hosting the Test to provide a suitable microchip scanner.

### EXERCISE 1 – ROAD WALK

The object of this exercise is to test the ability of the dog to walk on a lead under control on a public highway beside the handler and for the handler to determine the speed of the walk. This exercise should be carried out at a suitable outdoor location and an occasional tight lead is acceptable. The handler and dog should walk along a pavement, execute a turn, then stop at the kerb where the dog should remain steady and controlled. On command they should proceed, observing the Highway Code. When reaching the other side they should turn and continue walking, making a few changes of pace from normal to slow or fast walking pace. The handler and dog will return across the road to the starting point of the exercise. Distractions should be incorporated such

as passing vehicles or bicycles, people, wheelchairs, prams, pushchairs, etc.

*Note: The turns are only tests of ability to change direction.*

*Note for Instructors and Examiners:* This exercise must be conducted on a suitable public highway and not a simulated environment. You do not have to use a public highway that is adjacent to the Club's/ Organisation's premises if it is not suitable. In this instance, the location of this exercise can be moved to another more suitable location e.g. town centre. Always check the condition and fit of the collar, lead and equipment of each dog taking part before you attempt this exercise. (Refer to the collar, lead and equipment exercise featured in the Bronze Award test). Faulty equipment or a badly fitted collar could put dogs at risk. Consider the number of candidates being tested for this exercise. Smaller groups are easier to manage and observe.

The duration of this exercise depends on the Examiner, who should satisfy themselves that each handler and dog has been observed for all parts of the exercise. Long leads are permissible, but handlers should gather up the lead and not allow the dog to wander in any direction. Dogs should not be off lead at any time during this exercise. Other handlers and dogs may be used as distractions. Reflective clothing is advantageous if training or testing in more rural areas or at night. Competition heelwork is not the aim but is acceptable.

## EXERCISE 2 – RETURN TO HANDLER'S SIDE

The object of this exercise is to be able to bring the dog back under close control during a lead free walk. This exercise should preferably be conducted at a safe outdoor location. With the dog off lead and not less than 10 paces away, upon instruction, the dog will be called back to the walking handler's

side and both should continue together for approximately ten paces.

*Note: A dog moving loosely at the handler's side, under control, is quite acceptable and there is no requirement for a halt to complete the exercise.*

*Note for Instructors and Examiners:* Care should be taken when setting this exercise and preferably an appropriate outdoor location should be used where possible. Although permissible, a specified stay position to gain distance between the handler and the dog is not required. The dog should return without delay and when it reaches the handler it may walk on either side. Extra commands are permitted but should not be excessive. If testing this exercise in groups, no more than one dog should be off the lead at any one time.

## EXERCISE 3 – WALK FREE BESIDE HANDLER

The object of this exercise is for the dog to be kept close to the handler's side as may be necessary on a walk in the park. This exercise should preferably be conducted at a safe outdoor location. This is a test of control whilst walking with a dog off lead beside its handler for approximately 40 paces. Competition heelwork is not the aim, but is acceptable. Therefore, it is only necessary for the dog to be kept loosely beside the handler. Two changes of direction will take place and there will be the distraction of another handler passing with a dog on a lead. Upon instruction the handler will attach the lead to finish to the test.

*Note: Changes of direction are right and left turns without formality.*

*Note for Instructors and Examiners:* Care should be taken when setting this exercise and an appropriate outdoor location should be used where possible. The dog may walk on either side of the handler. Extra commands are permitted. If testing this exercise in groups,

*no more than one dog should be off the lead at any one time. Other dogs may be used as a distraction, but these should not be placed too close to the dog under test so as not to cause interference. Dogs with an unruly nature or unsuitable temperament should not be put forward for testing.*

## EXERCISE 4 – STAY DOWN IN ONE PLACE

The object of this exercise is that the dog will stay down on the spot while the handler moves away for two minutes both in and out of sight. This stay will be tested off lead and handlers should place their dogs in the down position. During the test the handler will be asked to move out of sight for approximately half a minute. While in sight handlers will be approximately ten paces away from their dog. The time starts when the handler leaves the dog and it finishes when the handler returns to the dog's side and replaces the lead.

*Note: This exercise is a test to see if the dog will stay down in one place without changing position.*

*Note for Instructors and Examiners:* When setting up this exercise, always allow sufficient space between the dogs and give clear instructions to the handlers as to when this exercise will commence and where handlers should walk. Extra commands are permitted during this exercise, but these should not be excessive. The dog must stay in the down position. Dogs are only permitted one attempt at this exercise. Only under exceptional circumstances such as a dog under test being interfered with by another dog should another attempt be considered. This however, is only at the discretion of the Examiner. The out of sight period can be included at any stage of the total time and when training this exercise it is advisable to practise all variations. The Examiner will decide how the exercise is tested.

## EXERCISE 5 – SEND THE DOG TO BED

The object of this exercise is to demonstrate control that might be required in the home. This exercise should preferably be conducted at a safe indoor location. The handler may provide the dog's bed, blanket, mat, or an article of clothing, etc. The handler should place the dog's bed in a position determined by the Examiner. The handler will stand approximately ten paces from the bed. Upon instruction, the handler will send the dog to bed where the dog will remain until the Examiner is satisfied the dog is settled.

*Note: The dog is not being sent to bed in disgrace. Where possible this exercise should be tested indoors. The bed used should be suitable for the dog under test and no inducement e.g. toys or food should be used during this exercise.*

*Note for Instructors and Examiners:* This exercise should preferably be conducted indoors. Care should be taken as to the location of this exercise. Dogs can be tested singly or in groups and if testing in groups only one dog should be off lead at any one time. The Examiner dictates the location of the bed. The handler is permitted to show and place the dog on the bed, prior to testing. During training sessions it is advisable to practise placing the bed in different locations. Extra commands are acceptable throughout the exercise to reassure the dog. Different types of beds such as cages, duvets and fleeces can be used as a bed. During testing sessions no inducements such as food or toys can be placed on the bed. When the dog reaches the bed, the dog can adopt a sit or down position, along as the Examiner feels the dog is settled.

## EXERCISE 6 – STOP THE DOG

The object of this exercise is for the handler to stop the dog at a distance in an emergency situation. With the dog off lead and at a distance, not less than approximately ten

paces away, the handler will be instructed to stop the dog on the spot in any position.

*Note: The dog should be moving and is expected to respond straight away to the stop command, but if moving at speed, will be allowed a reasonable distance to come to a stop.*

*Note for Instructors and Examiners:* This exercise should preferably be conducted outdoors and care should be taken as to the location of this exercise. Dogs can be tested singly or in groups and if testing in groups only one dog should be off lead at any one time. The emergency stop can be in any direction. The Examiner will dictate the direction and position of the stop. It is advisable to practise stopping the dog going away from as well as coming towards the handler. Stopping the dog after recalling it or using a toy to gain distance from the dog are examples of how this exercise could be set.

*Note: food should not be used as an inducement. The dog must be in motion when it is stopped.*

### EXERCISE 7 – RELAXED ISOLATION

The object of this exercise is for the dog to be content when left in isolation. During such times the dog should not become agitated, unduly stressed or defensive. The handler should fasten the dog to an approximate two metre line and then move out of sight for between two – five minutes as directed. Alternatively, the dog may be left in a room on its own, or left in a room on its own in a suitable crate/cage, provided undetected observation can take place. The owner must provide the crate/cage if one is used. Examiners should choose appropriate venues when conducting this exercise. Handlers can choose the method of isolation, however the Examiner will determine the testing area to be used. This must be a safe area but not to include a vehicle. Any number of dogs may be tested at the same time provided they are isolated at different locations. It is acceptable for the dog to

move around during isolation, however should the dog whine, howl, bark, or indulge in any disruptive activities it should not pass this exercise.

*Note: Dogs should be tested for their relaxed demeanour in isolation without any prior controls being imposed by the handler. This is not a stay exercise but handlers may settle their dogs before leaving. This is a practical test and if tethering dog no inducement e.g. blankets, toys or food should be used during this exercise. However suitable bedding may be provided in the crate only.*

*Note for Instructors and Examiners:* Care should be taken when setting this exercise. The location of the dog's isolation is determined by the Examiner and should be considered carefully. If a long line is used, this should be tied to a secure holding. When testing in groups, dogs should be sufficiently spaced apart. If testing indoors, the location chosen should allow the Examiner to observe the dog. Dogs cannot be isolated in a vehicle. The Examiner should be able to observe the dog under test without being too close.

### EXERCISE 8 – FOOD MANNERS

The object of this exercise is for the dog to be fed in an orderly manner. The handler will offer food to the dog either by hand or in a bowl. The dog must wait for permission to eat. After a three – five second pause, the handler will be asked to give the dog a command to eat.

*Note: The dog should not eat until given permission, however if attempting to do so, it is acceptable for the handler to restrain the dog by voice alone.*

*Note for Instructors and Examiners:* Dogs should be on a lead at all times. The Examiner will determine the way in which this exercise is conducted. The handler should preferably provide the food and a bowl where required. The food used should be of the type normally

consumed by the dog. When practising this exercise it is helpful to get the handler and dog to walk around the bowl to build up the dogs control when aware of food. Reassurance by the handler is acceptable.

### EXERCISE 9 – EXAMINATION OF THE DOG

The object of this exercise is to demonstrate that the dog will allow inspection of its body by a stranger as might be undertaken by a veterinary surgeon. The dog on lead will be required to be placed for inspection of its mouth, teeth, throat, eyes, ears, stomach, tail and feet whilst standing, sitting or lying down as required. Other than mild avoidance, the dog should allow inspection without concern.

The lead must be held securely by the handler throughout the exercise. The lead, collar and equipment should not be used to restrain the dog. If required the Examiner can insist that if applicable a head collar or body harness is removed if it interferes with the Examination.

*Note: It is the responsibility of training officials to ensure that only suitable dogs take part in this exercise. The handler may assist the examiner in opening the dog's mouth, so that the examiner can touch and inspect the mouth appropriately.*

*Note for Instructors and Examiners:* Care must be taken when setting up this exercise. It is imperative that instructors only put dogs of a sound temperament forward for this exercise and dogs must be kept on a lead at all times. In preparation during training sessions, dogs should be acquainted with different Examiners both male and female and familiar with all parts of their body being inspected before being put forward for testing. When testing this exercise, Examiners should always ask the handler first if the dog will allow inspection. Do not impede the dog. Put any clipboards down and where appropriate remove any heavy outdoor clothing, hats or

jewellery, etc. Always approach the dog from the front and introduce yourself. Reassurance from the handler throughout this exercise is acceptable. When examining the dog, care should be taken in carefully examining the dog and gently touching parts of the dog's body. Dogs should not be pulled or forced by the Examiner to adopt a required position. Handlers should assist by repositioning their dog where necessary. Examiners should not put themselves at risk.

### EXERCISE 10 – RESPONSIBILITY AND CARE

The object of this exercise is to test the knowledge of the handler on specific subjects relating to owning a dog. The Examiner should construct questions based on section two and three of the Responsibility and Care.

Topics covered include – other responsibilities, children, barking, dogs and stationary vehicles, vehicle travel, health, worming, the Country Code, miscellaneous, frightening, out of control, biting and psychology of learning.

The questions should not be phrased in an ambiguous manner and where necessary, Examiners should rephrase the same question in an attempt to bring out the correct answer from the handler. At the start of each training course, in addition to the Description, handlers should be given a copy of the Canine Code. There should be a session during which the importance of these topics in every day life situations are discussed.

*Note: Only one numbered item may constitute a question. The handler should be able to give eight out of ten correct answers from sections two and three of the Responsibility and Care.*

*Note for Instructors and Examiners:* This exercise can be conducted verbally as a question and answer session or in conjunction with other test exercises. It should not be given as a written test. When testing it is advisable to have a variety of questions prepared.



## SPECIAL PRE-BEGINNER OBEDIENCE STAKES

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# THE KENNEL CLUB GOOD CITIZEN DOG SCHEME SPECIAL PRE-BEGINNER OBEDIENCE STAKES

### A. ELIGIBILITY

To compete in this special class a handler or dog must not have won a First Prize in Pre-Beginners nor gained a third place or above in any other standard obedience class 'Introductory Accepted'. Exhibits must have obtained a minimum of their Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme Bronze Award prior to the closing date of the show.

### B. AIM

The exercises featured in this special class will be a combination of the Bronze Award and the Pre-Beginner class. This test will serve as an introduction to basic competitive obedience and handlers will be encouraged to motivate their dog throughout the test. Toys and/or other training aids may be used briefly between exercises, although during the exercise, these must be placed on the Judges table. Toys should be of a suitable size and texture. Handlers will not be penalised for encouragement or extra commands except during the stay exercise. Food must not be used as an incentive and must not be brought into the ring. Judges or Stewards must not use the words "last command" except in the stay exercise.

### C. QUALIFYING FOR THE SEMI FINALS

These heats will be held at Open Championship Obedience shows or at special licensed events. The class will be a mixed sex class and will require one Judge. The Judge will be appointed by the Show Society in accordance with current Kennel Club Obedience Show (G) Regulations.

All qualifying awards will be confirmed by the Good Citizen Dog Scheme Office and sent to the individual competitor following receipt of the result from the show hosting the heat. Qualifying places will be awarded to the 2 highest placed dogs in each class that have not previously qualified for the semifinals in that year. This would normally be the 1st and 2nd placed dogs but these will be allocated to a lower placing if a dog has already qualified.

In the event that the 2 highest placed dogs (not already qualified) are WSD/BCs an additional qualifying place will be awarded to the highest placed ABC. In the event that the 2 highest placed dogs (not already qualified) are ABCs an additional qualifying place will be awarded to the highest placed WSD/BC. Dogs must be placed in the first 10 places to be eligible.

### D. BREED CLASSIFICATION

Category A

Border Collie or Working Sheepdog.

Category B

ABC will be classed as 'Anything But a Collie' hence all breeds including crossbreeds but excluding the Border Collie and Working Sheepdog.

In all instances, both qualifying dogs must have completed the test. In the event of the entry exceeding 60, the class will be split, and two qualifiers from each division of the heat will qualify for a semi final place.

Once a dog has qualified for a semi final, further heats may be entered for competition, although any placing in these heats will not

affect the dog's eligibility for the semi final. It is most important that handlers who gain a place in a heat with a previously qualified dog inform the show secretary on the day of the show of this fact. Hence if a dog has already qualified, the dog may be placed at future shows but the qualifying place will be awarded to the next eligible dog of that category. Please refer to breed classifications as printed above.

#### E. ROSETTES

Rosettes (1st-10th place) will be issued by the Kennel Club to all clubs running the heats. All heat qualifiers will receive an invitation to one of the two semi finals.

#### F. SUBSEQUENT AWARDS

Dogs and handlers should be eligible to enter Obedience pre-beginners classes at the time of entering a heat. Any subsequent wins gained by the handler or dog will not alter their eligibility to compete in the semi final/final.

#### G. HOW TO RUN A HEAT

Clubs wishing to hold a heat should contact the Good Citizen Dog Scheme Office.

#### H. HEAT INFORMATION

Details of the list of heats will be featured on the Scheme's website or can be obtained from the Good Citizen Dog Scheme Office.

##### THE TEST

(1) Play With or Motivate Your dog	5 Points
(2) Heel on lead	10 Points
(3) Examination of the Dog (handler to show judge)	15 Points
(4) Recall With Finish	10 Points
(5) Control at Gate Exercise	15 Points
(6) Stay one minute, handler in sight	15 Points
<b>Total</b>	<b>70 Points</b>

#### (1) PLAY WITH OR MOTIVATE YOUR DOG

##### 5 Points

*Note: handler's choice – on or off lead. It is recommended that the Judge commences with this exercise and that it lasts approximately 30 seconds.*

To show how a handler can motivate their dog in preparation for obedience work, handlers may use a toy for this exercise. Play should be under the handler's control and if it involves articles they should be readily given up by the dog. Play should be appropriate to the dog under test but should not include play fighting. Formal exercises will not be deemed as appropriate. Any form of aggression must be penalised.

#### (2) HEEL ON LEAD

##### 10 Points

It is recommended that this exercise follows "Play With or Motivate Your Dog" and should last no more than one minute. This is an introduction to competitive heelwork and should be straightforward, include minimal turns and not more than two halts. A large circle is permissible in either direction, at the Judge's discretion. The handler should walk briskly and the dog should walk with its shoulder approximately level with and reasonably close to the handler's leg at all times while the handler is walking. The lead should be slack at all times. The test will start and finish with the dog sitting at the handler's side.

#### (3) EXAMINATION OF THE DOG (HANDLER TO SHOW JUDGE)

##### 15 points

The handler will show the Judge how they can settle and examine their own dog. This exercise will be carried out on lead. The dog will be required to have its mouth, teeth,

throat, eyes, ears and feet inspected when standing, sitting or lying down on either side or on its back.

#### (4) RECALL WITH FINISH

##### 10 Points

Recall from sit or down position at handler's choice. Dog to be recalled by the handler when stationary and facing the dog. The dog to return smartly to the handler, sit in front, go to heel – all on command of the Judge or Steward to handler. This exercise will be carried out off the lead.

#### (5) CONTROL AT GATE

##### 15 Points

Walk on lead through gate with the dog under control. Handler to start exercise with the dog in the sit, down or stand position. The dog to wait while handler opens gate and walks through the gate. Handler to then recall the dog through the gate on lead. The dog to then wait in stand, sit or down position, while handler secures the gate. The dog should not pull or be pulled through the doorway. Marks must be deducted for anticipation, tight lead or lack of control.

#### (6) STAY ONE MINUTE, HANDLER IN SIGHT

*(Group Exercise – off lead)*

*(Stand, Sit or Down Stay, handler's choice)*

##### 15 Points

Handlers may face their dogs. Individual handlers may choose the stay position for their own dog.

##### TOTAL 70 Points

#### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

##### I. DOES MY DOG HAVE TO BE KENNEL CLUB REGISTERED TO TAKE PART?

Yes. In accordance with Kennel Club Rules and Regulations, all dogs entering a Kennel Club Licensed event must be registered either on the Breed or Activity Register.

##### II. WHAT IS THE MINIMUM AGE AT WHICH A DOG CAN TAKE PART?

Six months, in accordance with Kennel Club G Regulations.

##### III. DOES THE STAY EXERCISE HAVE TO BE ON OR OFF LEAD?

The stay exercise must be conducted off lead.

##### IV. SHOULD THE PLAY OR MOTIVATE YOUR DOG EXERCISE BE CONDUCTED ON OR OFF THE LEAD?

This exercise can be conducted on or off lead at the discretion of the handler.

##### V. WHAT IF MY DOG HAS GAINED A SILVER OR GOLD AWARD?

As long as the dog has obtained a minimum of its Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme Bronze Award prior to the closing date of the show and the dog and handler have not won a First Prize in Pre-Beginners nor gained a third place or above in any other standard obedience class, they are eligible to enter the class.

##### VI. MY DOG IS A COLLIE CROSS, WHAT CATEGORY IS MY DOG ELIGIBLE FOR?

From 1st January 2007, all dogs registered with the Kennel Club as any type of crossbreed will be classed as 'Anything But A Collie' (ABC). This includes all collie type crosses.

# SCHEME SERVICES

## A. SEMINARS AND EDUCATION

The Scheme holds regular seminars throughout the UK. Seminars provide a comprehensive explanation of the Scheme's standards and testing procedures. Examiner Assessment courses are available for current and prospective Scheme Examiners. Information about these day courses and current dates can be obtained from the Good Citizen Dog Scheme website at [www.gcds.org.uk](http://www.gcds.org.uk) or the office.

## B. IDENTIFICATION TAGS

The Scheme offers an identification tag engraving service. Further details and prices can be located from the Good Citizen Dog Scheme website at [www.gcds.org.uk](http://www.gcds.org.uk).

## C. CRUFTS AND DISCOVER DOGS

The Kennel Club is always looking for Dog Training Clubs/Organisations to take part in its displays conducted at Crufts and Discover Dogs. If you are interested in taking part, please contact the Good Citizen Dog Scheme office.

## D. ANNUAL AWARDS

An annual award competition was introduced in 1999, to recognise and reward the efforts of Dog Training Clubs/ Organisations for promoting responsible dog ownership. Further details and an application form can be obtained from the Scheme's website.

## E. HOW TO FIND A LOCAL DOG TRAINING COURSE

If you are looking for a local Dog Training Club, details can be found on the Scheme's website ([www.gcds.org.uk](http://www.gcds.org.uk)) or by contacting the Scheme on 0207 518 1011 ext 256.

## F. REWARDING RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

Promoting responsible dog ownership through the Scheme is a way of highlighting how well trained dogs have a place in our society. When taking your dogs to places such as hotels, and parks, you can help to promote awareness of the Scheme in recognition of well behaved dogs.

## G. GOOD CITIZEN DOG SCHEME BREED CLASS AND AV STAKES CLASS

A special breed class and AV stakes class classification has been introduced that may be held at an Open or Championship breed show. Dogs must comply with the rules of the show and have achieved their Bronze Award Certificate to be eligible. When qualifying for Crufts, dogs must have qualified in their own breed (see Crufts qualifications) and have also gained a Bronze Award Certificate to be eligible to enter the specified class. A GCDS Annual Supermatch is held for winners of the GCDS Breed classes and those placed 1st -5th in the AV classes at Championship Shows.

## H. MERCHANDISE

The Scheme has a range of merchandise including polo shirts and fleeces. Souvenir tags, badges and rosettes for Bronze, Silver and Gold award achievers can also be obtained, further details are available from the Good Citizen Dog Scheme website [www.gcds.org.uk](http://www.gcds.org.uk).

## I. SAFE AND SOUND

A Scheme to promote the safe interaction between children and dogs has been introduced and educational resources are available to Dog Clubs/ Organisations free of

charge. For further information please contact the Scheme's office on 020 7518 1011.

## J. KENNEL CLUB REGISTRATION

Information concerning Kennel Club Registration, Publications and other initiatives are available in the Listed Status Introduction pack. For further information, please contact the Scheme's office on 01296 318540 Ext 256.

## K. KC DOG

Is an initiative established to keep responsible dog owners informed about dog control orders throughout the UK.

## L. GOOD CITIZEN DOG SCHEME (BEST BEHAVED) CLASS

A special Scruffs class has been introduced at Companion Dog Shows for dogs that have achieved their Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme Bronze Award Certificate or above. Certificates should be available at the show if requested.

Dogs entered in this class will be judged on their good behaviour, general demeanour and sound temperament. There will be no requirement for exhibits to demonstrate any of the exercises. Judges may wish to see the handler to walk their dog on a lead, be presented for a brief introduction (hello) and/or ask the handler some questions as to why they feel they have a well behaved dog.





**THE KENNEL CLUB**  
*Making a difference for dogs*

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