

TIPS FOR TAKING CGC TEST

General Tips:

- * Dogs should wear well-fitting buckle collars. Special training collars such as pinch collars and head collars (halters) are not permitted. The leash should be made of either leather or fabric.
- * Harsh corrections are not permitted in the test and are grounds for dismissal. Handlers are encouraged to praise and interact with their dogs.
- * Multiple prompts (two or three commands) are acceptable, talking to the dog throughout the test is acceptable and body language on the part of the handler is fine.
- * Any dog that eliminates during testing should not pass the test.

Test 1: Accepting a Friendly Stranger

- * The dog must show no sign of resentment, aggression or shyness.
- * The dog may not jump on or rush to the evaluator to initiate contact. The dog may not lunge forward to greet the evaluator.
- * The dog should be under control throughout the exercise. If the handler must use excessive corrections (e.g., trying to hold the dog to prevent jumping) to control the dog, the dog should not pass the exercise.

Hint: As the Evaluator approaches, cue your dog into a relaxed down if possible. Keep an eye on her and offer verbal cues to keep her from getting up.

Test 2: Sitting Politely for Petting

- * The dog must not show shyness or resentment.
- * As the Evaluator begins to pet the dog, the dog may stand to receive petting.
- * The dog may not struggle and pull away to avoid petting.
- * The dog may move slightly forward to receive petting, but should not lunge at the Evaluator or rush or jump forward.
- * The dog may appear to be happy about the contact with the Evaluator and may have some body movements.
- * The dog should appear to be under control throughout the exercise.

Hint: Try to keep your dog in the sit position and continue to praise him for being calm.

Test 3: Appearance and Grooming

- * It is not necessary for the dog to hold a specific position during the examination, and the handler may talk to the dog, praise it and give it encouragement throughout.
- * The Evaluator may give the handler specific instructions for handling the dog in a manner that ensures safety. For example, when the feet are to be handled, the Evaluator may request that the handler lift each leg. The Evaluator may request that the handler steady the dog's head for checking the ears.
- * Another technique the Evaluator may use is to hold the dog's head away with one hand and use the other hand to lift the foot.
- * While the handler may be asked to steady the dog's head, lift a leg, etc, any dog requiring restraining so it can be examined should not pass the test. The key question for the test is, "Could a veterinarian or groomer easily examine the dog?"

- * Some dogs will wiggle or squirm when they are excited. Some squirming is acceptable, however, this should not be so excessive that the dog cannot be brushed.
- * The dog should not struggle (pull away with intensity to avoid the brushing).

Hint: Tell the Evaluator that your dog knows how "shake" or do a "High Five" (if he does.) Talk to your dog as needed.

Test 4: Out for a Walk (Walking on a loose leash)

- * The dog's position should leave no doubt that the dog is attentive to the handler and is responding to the handler's movements and changes of direction.
- * The dog need not be perfectly aligned with the handler and need not sit at the stops.
- * The dog should not be constantly straining at the leash so that the leash is pulled tight. The Evaluator may instruct the handler to loosen (put more slack) in the leash. An occasional tight leash may be permitted.
- * Excessive sniffing of the floor such that the dog will not walk along with the owner, should result in the dog not passing the test.
- * If the dog is totally inattentive to the handler (e.g., does not change directions), it should not be passed.

Hint: Use a happy voice to give as many cues as your dog needs to stay attentive to you. Add silly sounds and pat your leg or what ever to keep your dog with you.

Test 5: Walking Through a Crowd

- * The dog may show some interest in the strangers but should continue to walk with the handler, without evidence of over exuberant, shyness or resentment.
- * The dog may show mild interest in members of the crowd. The dog may sniff a person in the crowd briefly but must move on promptly.
- * The dog may not jump on people in the crowd or attempt to go to them.
- * The dog should not be straining at the leash.
- * The dog should not be try to hide behind the handler.

Hint: Use a happy voice to give as many cues as your dog needs to stay attentive to you. Add silly sounds and pat your leg or what ever to keep your dog with you.

Test 6: Sit and Down on Command/Staying in Place

[Prior to this test, the dog's leash is replaced with a 20-foot line.] The handler may take a reasonable amount of time and use more than one command to make the dog sit and then down. [The handler may not force the dog into either position but may touch the dog to offer gentle guidance.]

- * Pulling the dog's front legs out from a sit position (so that the dog automatically drops into a down) is beyond gentle guidance and the dog should not be passed.
- * The dog is left for the stay in a sit or down. As the handler returns, if the dog simply stands but does not leave the place it was left, the dog passes the test. Dogs who start walking forward to the handler should not pass.
- * Dogs who do not sit or down after a reasonable period of time need more training and should not be passed.

Hint: Leave dog on a relaxed down. It will take him a little longer to get up and move out of position if he has problems with the stay. Walk as briskly as possible but try not to entice him to follow.

Test 7: Coming When Called

10 feet from the dog, The handler may use body language and encouragement to get the dog to come.

- * Dogs who attempt to follow the handler should not be failed. The Evaluator should distract the dog. The test begins when the handler calls the dog.
- * The handler can bend down to call the dog, pat his legs and make encouraging sounds.
- * Handlers may call the dog more than once (two or three attempts) but if many, repeated prompts are required, the dog should not be passed.
- * Dogs should not be passed if the handlers have used the long line to "reel in" the dog. Dogs should come on their own when called.

Hint: Try to stay relaxed as you call your dog, be animated as needed to attract him to you.

Test 8: Reaction to Another Dog

- * The dogs should show no more than a casual interest in each other. If the dog attempts to go to or jump on the distraction dog, it should not pass the test.
- * The dog may move slightly toward the other dog/handler, then stop. The dog must stay back from the other dog/handler.
- * The dog can stretch its neck and sniff without moving forward to the other dog/handler.
- * When the handlers stop to shake hands, the dog does not have to sit. It can remain standing beside the handler. If the dog remains standing it should not cross over in front of the handler to go to the other dog.
- * As the handler leaves, if the dog turns around and begins pulling as if to follow the other dog/handler the dog should not pass the test.

Hint: Pay attention to your dog at all times, giving cues and praise as needed.

Test 9: Reactions to Distractions

The dog may show casual interest and may appear slightly startled. The dog may jump slightly but should not panic and pull at the leash to get away.

- * The dog may attempt to walk forward slightly to investigate the distracter.
- * Dogs who become so frightened that they urinate (or defecate) shall not pass.
- * Dogs who growl or lunge at the distracter shall not pass.
- * An isolated (one) bark is acceptable. Dogs who continue to bark at the distracter should not pass.
- * The handler may talk to the dog and encourage or praise it throughout the test. Dogs may be given instructions by the handler ("sit...good boy, watch me...")

Test 10: Supervised Separation

- * The dog does not have to stay in position.
- * If the dog continually barks, whines or howls it should not be passed.
- * The dog should not pace unnecessarily, should not show signs of agitation.
- * A dog that simply walks back and forth and looks for the handler is passed. There should be no signs of extreme stress, including panting, breathing hard, etc.
- * If a dog pulls on its leash (trying to get away) it should not be passed.

Hint: Leave your dog in a relaxed down position and say "I'll be back" as you leave. Don't hurry as you walk away. However you should come back to your dog as quickly as possible. You may softly talk to the dog as you near him if he appears ready to lunge away from the person holding his leash.

Bring your dog's favorite brush or comb.

If your dog has an AKC registration number be sure to bring it. If not don't worry about it.

And remember to have fun!