



Evaluator News

from Canine Good Citizen®



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PART I. Against All Odds

Meet Sasha: 14-Year-Old Rescue Dog Earns CGC Award

Submitted by Kathy Pulley, Proud Owner



Sasha was a rescue dog that I got when she was 5 weeks old.

This beautiful brown pitbull has always been a gentle dog who seemed grateful to have a loving home. When Sasha was 2 years old, she was diagnosed with mast cell cancer. We were very lucky and Sasha is now 14 years old.

I've been asked a few times why we would do CGC testing now that Sasha is 14 years old. The answer is she is such a great ambassador for her breed and we love her so much, we want others to see and know what a great dog she is.

Sasha loves treats, car rides, and she loves to sit up and shake hands with people she meets. You can see from our family photo that we consider Sasha an important part of our family. In this picture, she decided to take a nap (after all, the photographer provided her with a nice blanket), but she is a smart dog who is fun to teach.

We are so proud of Sasha and I am so happy that Sasha and I were able to participate in (and pass!) the AKC CGC test.

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Meet Coco: A Very Special CGC Dog

Submitted by Cheri Yates, PhD (Citizen Dog Training, LLC)



We captured this photo of Coco, a Pug owned by Sue Schell, right before she went to take her CGC test. Sue was reviewing the printed pages of test items and Coco was apparently bored with the study session.

The photo is adorable, but it's what you can't see in the picture that is the most impressive thing about this story. Coco is almost blind, yet with consistency, reinforcement and a very determined owner, she successfully passed the AKC CGC test.

CONGRATULATIONS, COCO and SUE!!

Belle The Beagle Beats Cancer to Become Therapy Dog

By Andrea Harr (Noah's Too Pet Resort)



Despite two cancer operations and a blood transfusion, Belle Davis-Perry passed her Canine Good Citizen test in June 2012.

Belle, approximately 12 years old, is a little beagle mix that had a rough start to life. She was rescued by the Capital Area Humane Society in Columbus, Ohio in March of 2008. She had been the victim of an abandonment case of animal hoarding.

She required surgery on her spleen to remove a benign mass and an extensive dental cleaning before she was ready for adoption.

The first adopted home fed her a lot of treats and Belle ballooned to 35 pounds, which was morbidly obese. She was then adopted for a second time by Eve and Jane. They put Belle on a strict diet and reduced her weight to a svelte 22.5 pounds.

Eve contacted me in February of 2012 and wanted to get Belle trained to pass the CGC so she could participate in a reading program at a local library. The training was progressing, but then in April we had a major disruption. Belle required surgery for a mass in her chest.

Happily, Belle recovered and returned to her training just like nothing had ever happened. She passed her CGC test on June 9, 2012 and all of her blood work is showing levels within normal range. She has since started her job as a reading dog at the local library and she very much enjoys it. Congratulations Belle!

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PART II. Guest Author

Bringin' Them Home

Creature Comfort Pet Therapy Dogs Greet Returning Troops

By Steven Herz



Touching Hearts. Changing Lives.

You're about to land on U.S. soil for the first time in a year. You and your fellow soldiers have just completed a 12-month deployment in the hornet's nest and Taliban stronghold of the war: Helmand Province, Afghanistan. You're tired and exhilarated, all at once ...you miss your family and your dog(s) ...and suddenly, as you come down the ramp at Bangor International Airport, you hear it: the growing applause, the repetitive refrain of "Welcome to Maine! Welcome home!"

"Thanks for coming out, Sir. Thanks for your support, you guys are awesome."

No, soldier, YOU'RE awesome! ...and please don't call me Sir."

On Thursday, July 19, for the first time representing Creature Comfort Pet Therapy, Koko Herz and her dad, Steven, got their callout at 8 a.m. from the nationally renowned Maine Troop Greeters to work a homebound flight. The day was as beautiful as you'll ever see in a Maine summer, breezy, cool, blue skies and sun, even away from the coast where Koko and her dad spend their vacation. We made the 65-mile drive over to Bangor, arriving in plenty of time for the World Airways flight, which arrived 10 minutes early. Normal protocol affords more leeway for a homecoming flight versus shorter notice for a going over flight because of security. So we were confident that, unlike last year, this would be a joyous welcome home. Once again, Koko and I took our place at the end of the welcome line, alongside Schuyler and Opey, the little local therapy dogs who, with their mom and dad, Ron and Sheryl Lare, work many of the Troop Greeter flights.



For the next hour and 20 minutes, Koko worked the crowd like the CCPT ambassador she is, letting these strangers, these men and women returning from a war a world away from home, spend time with her even as they phoned their families and loved ones on the cell phones provided by the Troop Greeters. This was a joint unit of troops from Fort Lewis near Tacoma, Wash., and Fort Carson, near Colorado Springs, Colo. When I asked "Where's home?" I seemingly never got the same answer twice:

Louisiana, Texas, California, New York State, Massachusetts, Colorado, North Carolina, etc.

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The elation and emotion inside and outside the terminal were palpable. For me, my challenge was trying not to wince after fielding hundreds of mighty firm handshakes from these troops, first as they arrived and then again when they boarded the flight for their eventual U.S. destinations. As always, they vanished as quickly as they appeared.

One soldier seated on the floor told me he was "petrified" of dogs. "Let me get this straight," I replied in front of his buddies. "You just got done spending a year in the middle of Taliban country and you're afraid of dogs? Well, I've got a chocolate teddy bear right here who wants to meet you. Are you going to let her approach?"

He did, and whatever fear of dogs he had instantly melted away as his brothers in arms smiled while he petted Koko.

PART III. Therapy Dog Grads

Friends Pet Therapy of the Santa Maria Kennel Club

Submitted by Jean MacLean, CGC Evaluator



Touching Hearts. Changing Lives.

Another group of CGC graduates are ready to volunteer in Convalescent Care, Assisted Living and Adult Day Care facilities.



PART IV. CGC Grads

Going for the CGC Gold!

Akron All Breed Training Club

Submitted by Rebecca Park, CGC Evaluator



Kent Adult Community Education

Submitted by Rebecca Park

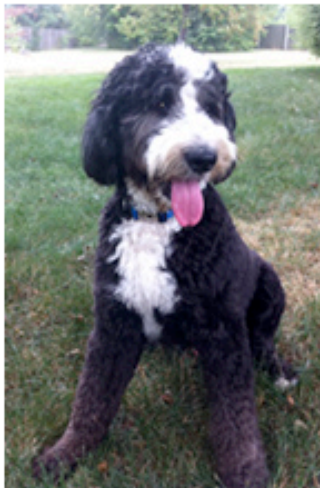


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CGC Grad: Zeus

Pawsitively Good Pup (Westlake, OH)

Submitted by Cindy Hoppes



It seems that every breed and every combination of breeds is earning the CGC award. Here is Zeus, a 9-month-old Sheepadoodle.

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PART V. AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Grads

AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Grads

Submitted by Mary Domes, CGC Evaluator



This is a photo of one of two S.T.A.R. Puppy classes which graduated last week. I'm so proud of their efforts and accomplishments!

Back row: John Lynn and Golden Retriever, Brewer; Karen Gripko and Miniature Poodle, Pippa; Carol Jantz and Pomeranian, Luanne Marie, Instructor Mary Domes; Karilyn Rushforth and Miniature Poodle, Milo; Ramona Milisaukas and Landseer cross, Holly.

Front row: Charlie Ernst and Boxer/Shepherd cross, Lexi; Joseph Yonke and Siberian Husky/Labrador cross, Rose.



AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Grads Urban Tails (Houston, TX)

By Monica Body, CGC Evaluator

Below are three recent S.T.A.R. Puppy graduates:

- "Mousse" 6-month-old Chocolate lab, owners Austin and Jackie
- "Casey" 6-month-old Mini Australian Shepherd, owner Kyle
- "Nevis" 6-month-old Scottish Terrier, owner Wren



I would like to happily report that each puppy and owner completed above and beyond the 6 week STAR Puppy test requirements here at Urban Tails in Houston, TX. They also all learned several fun tricks and plan on continuing training toward completing the CGC test!

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New AKC S.T.A.R. Pups Dream Dogz (Gainesville, FL)

Submitted by Victoria Warfel



From left to right:

- Larry, Min-Pin/Pug mix
- Ellie, Lab/Hound mix
- Bilbo, Bulldog mix
- Jetta, Schnauzer
- Toga, Catahoula mix
- Eddie, German Shepherd

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LINKS FOR CGC EVALUATORS

[ENTER TEST SUMMARY FORM ONLINE](#) – Just click here!

[CGC General Info Web page](#) – If you don't have the address handy, go to akc.org and type 'CGC' in the search box.

[CGC BOOK](#) – Citizen Canine, the official book of the CGC program-Every evaluator should read this!

[CGC TEST KITS AND PRODUCTS](#)

[AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy](#) – General Information

[AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy TEST KITS AND PRODUCTS](#)

[CGC Blog: "Citizen Canine"](#) – Weekly info you can pass on to your students

[FACEBOOK: CGC & AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy](#) – Put photos of your CGC/STAR grads in our photo album.

Contact us: cgc@akc.org