



March 2013

In This Issue:

PART I. Information for Evaluators

1. Are Wolves, Wolf Hybrids (Wolfdogs) Permitted in CGC?
2. Evaluator Ethics: An Ethical Problem or the Appearance of One

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

3. Meet A STAR Graduating Class: *By Dawn Leek (NJ)*
4. There's a New STAR in Florida! *By Karen Vance (FL)*

PART III. CGC Grads

5. Small Dogs Are STARS! *By Lysie Bernier (WI)*
6. California CGC Dogs Prepare for Therapy Work: *By Julie Apostolu (CA)*
7. Meet Our Central FL CGC Grads! *By Judy Thigpen (FL)*

PART IV. Therapy Dogs

8. From a Proud Owner: CGC and Therapy Dogs: *By R.D. Moreno and "Haley"*

PART I. Information for Evaluators

Are Wolves, Wolf Hybrids (Wolfdogs) Permitted in CGC?

We've had some questions lately about whether or not wolves, wolf hybrids or wolfdogs are permitted to earn a Canine Good Citizen award or title. ["Wolfdog" is another term for wolf hybrid].

Wolves and wolf hybrids may **not** earn the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy or Canine Good Citizen award (certificate) or official CGC title.

Wolves or wolf hybrids may **not** be enrolled as mixed breed dogs in the AKC Canine Partners program.



Evaluator Ethics: An Ethical Problem or the Appearance of One

The response to last month's "Ethics for Evaluators" was tremendous. Many evaluators wrote to comment on the topic presented and others sent in new ethics questions. What do you think about this one?



"I know of an evaluator who is involved with a rescue group (for a guard breed). She cares very much about the breed. In addition to providing the occasional foster care, she helps at adoption booths for the rescue group, she volunteers to train the dogs, and she also does the CGC testing for the group.

A community organization provides a financial incentive to get the dogs in this particular rescue group trained. Specifically, for every dog that passes the CGC test, the rescue group receives a check (\$\$\$). Some people believe the evaluator passes dogs who should not be passed so the rescue group gets more money.

Is there any ethical problem here on the part of the evaluator?"

CGC Answer: Whenever there could be even the appearance of an ethical problem, you've probably got a problem.

The evaluator in question could be an objective, honest person who judges the dogs fairly. But, she should not test any dog she fosters; this is a conflict of interest. She is functionally the owner of the dogs until they are adopted and evaluator-owners may not test their own dogs.

Because the evaluator is so actively involved with this rescue group, even if she only tests dogs she is not fostering, the situation has the appearance of bias.

For rescue groups and shelters, since the CGC is not transferable, we suggest advertising the dog as, "If you adopt me, I am ready to pass the CGC test with you." The adoptive owner then finds an independent evaluator and arranges a CGC test.

This case presents another interesting issue. If there is an economic reward for dogs to pass the test (i.e., money is given to the rescue group), could this lead evaluators, especially those involved with the rescue group, to pass dogs who should not pass?

Ideally, the financial contingency would be arranged differently. For example, perhaps the community organization could donate a specified amount of money per dog for each dog who is successfully adopted and stays in the adoptive home for a required amount of time. Or, perhaps the fee should be paid to the rescue group once the dog has been adopted and the adoptive owner and dog graduate from an independent training class or pass the CGC test with an independent evaluator.

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

Meet A STAR Graduating Class

By Dawn Leek (NJ)

I belong to the Pinelands K-9 Club, and I love teaching the STAR Puppy class! We rent the local 4-H Center in Atlantic County, NJ. Myself and Patti Cassidy are the STAR puppy Instructors.

We recently did an interview with our local paper, the Press of Atlantic City. The interview focused on our STAR puppy and our Beginners class. I am proud to say that almost all of our STAR puppies register for Beginners class where they excel.



Photos from left to right:

- AKC STAR Puppy Instructor – Dawn Leek
- Kathy & Bailey Rose (Golden Retriever)
- Laura & Adley (Weimaraner)
- Club Assistant Kim
- Kristen & Prancer (Standard Poodle)
- Sharon & Bailey (Yellow Lab)
- Assistant & AKC S.T.A.R. Instructor — Patti Cassidy
- Sheila & (Arlene - not pictured) & Coco (Great Dane)

There's a New STAR in Florida!

By Karen Vance (FL)



Meet the newest AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy from our classes in Florida. We are proud to introduce you to Joryn Jenkins and her Chinese Crested, 'Hatchi.'

[Back to Top ▲](#)

PART III. CGC Grads

Small Dogs Are STARS!

By Lysie Bernier (WI)



I am so pleased to share this photo of our AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy graduates from Ideal DOG LLC in Wisconsin. All of these dogs were tiny tots and this made the class so much fun!

California CGC Dogs Prepare for Therapy Work

By Julie Apostolu (CA)

We had a wonderful CGC test recently. Six of the eight dogs passed beautifully. The two dogs who did not pass were not expected to, because they still have fear/socialization issues to be worked on. Their owners wanted to try the test to see how their dogs were doing. Both of these dogs made great gains during the class, and I am so happy to report that the owners want to continue training.



We go all-out for our CGC tests. I have six assistants. Esme handles the Registration and Photography. DeeDee, our class assistant, is the ring steward and takes the owner away for supervised separation as well as witnessing the form. Barbara, Susan, Veronica and Crissy have all been through at least two of my classes and help with the 'crowd', dog meet and greet, supervised separation, and distractions (pulling a noisy cart, walking on crutches, and walking by with an umbrella while talking loudly into a cell phone).



Two dogs are going into our local hospital visitation program, Sunshine Teams. Four are going to be in my Novice Rally O class.

Meet Our Central FL CGC Grads!

By Judy Thigpen (FL)

At our February CGC test at Trained Dog, Happy Dog in Morriston, Florida, twelve dogs and handlers tested and everyone passed.



All of the owners and dogs had been working hard throughout the CGC class and they were all well prepared for the test. Our CGC test included Aussies, Labs, Golden Retrievers, a Sheltie, a Standard Poodle, an American Bulldog and a Bichon Frise — CGC is for all dogs!



[Back to Top ▲](#)

PART IV. Therapy Dogs

From a Proud Owner: CGC and Therapy Dogs

By R.D. Moreno and "Haley"

I am very proud that my 14-year old Golden Retriever, Haley, has passed the CGC test and is working as a therapy dog.

Haley passed the CGC test when she was 12 years old, showing that it is never too late for training. I enrolled in a puppy training class with Haley's "sister," and I wanted to do an activity with Haley. Rebecca Mandell's (Dogs Best Friend) CGC course offered a chance for us to bond and learn together. It was also a lifetime dream of mine to have Haley become a certified therapy dog and the CGC was the perfect beginning step for reaching that goal.

Haley is a very active, physically fit gal and at the time, I was still using a Halti to help her walk (and run!) well on leash. Because of the CGC class, we got our loose-leash walking in perfect shape and now only use a flat or martingale collar. She also offers a rather charming "pushy paw" whenever someone isn't giving her enough attention. We were able to help her learn "no paw," so she wouldn't accidentally scratch someone.

We now volunteer every week at a local senior center through an organization called **BARK**. We have visited libraries and schools as well.



[Back to Top ▲](#)

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

We respect your privacy. Please read [AKC's Privacy Statement](#).

American Kennel Club | 8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Suite 100 | Raleigh, NC 27617
Customer Care Center (919) 233-9767 | info@akc.org

© 2013 American Kennel Club