

AKC® EVALUATOR'S GUIDE

AKC S.T.A.R. PUPPY® PROGRAM



SOCIALIZATION ★ TRAINING ★ ACTIVITY ★ RESPONSIBILITY



**American
Kennel Club®**

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PART I.

GENERAL INFORMATION

ABOUT THE AKC S.T.A.R. PUPPY PROGRAM

Welcome to the AKC's S.T.A.R. Puppy Program!

AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Program is the AKC program designed to get puppies and their owners off to a great start. AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy requires that owners attend a basic training course with their puppies. All dogs need the necessary components of the program including Socialization, Training, Activity, and a Responsible owner.

Evaluators for AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy must be AKC Approved Canine Good Citizen Evaluators. CGC Evaluators are automatically approved to conduct AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy testing.

One major difference in the AKC Canine Good Citizen Test and AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy is that CGC Evaluators may give the CGCSM test to handlers and dogs they have not trained in classes.

AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy is an owner incentive program designed to get owners to attend a basic training class with their puppies. Unlike the CGC Test, the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Test is given only at the conclusion of a training course that is at least 6 weeks long. The course may be called AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy, or it may simply be the evaluator's puppy or basic training class.

So, as an AKC Approved Evaluator, you'll be providing the necessary training on the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy skills, and you'll do the testing at the end of your course. If you are a CGC Evaluator, you need to teach puppy classes in order to administer the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Test.

Goals of the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Program include:

- Providing socialization to puppies enrolled in AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy classes
- Providing basic training to puppies enrolled in AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy classes
- Teaching owners about the appropriate amount of exercise (or activity) for their puppies
- Teaching owners how to be responsible dog owners

The AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy® Program is a noncompetitive activity that is open to all dogs, including purebreds and mixed breeds. Dogs who pass all of the items on the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Test will be listed in the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy records.

As an approved evaluator, you assume responsibility for conducting the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy test according to AKC protocol. Evaluators should ensure that each student in the course has an experience that is positive, educational, and fun. Some of the test items will be observed and scored during the course and others will be administered at the end of the course.

For the test items administered at the end of the course, handlers may talk to their dogs throughout the test and use praise, hugs, smiles, hugs and pats. Unlike in the CGC Test, which requires more training (see: www.akc.org/events/cgc/index.cfm), in the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Test, the owners may use food as a lure to encourage dogs to sit, down, etc.

The atmosphere in both classes and testing should be fun and relaxed.

As a AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy trainer/evaluator, the way in which you conduct a AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Test and interact with participants may determine if a dog owner will become involved in dog training and activities in the future.

Thank you so much for helping us ensure that dogs will always be welcome and respected members of our communities.

AGE REQUIREMENTS FOR PUPPIES

Dogs up to the age of 1 year may take the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Test. In most cases, dogs will be younger than 1 year, however, we are eager to reinforce owners who may have dogs in basic training classes that are a little older than most of the puppies.

Dogs are welcome to take the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Test when they are old enough to have completed all necessary vaccinations. The evaluator/instructor will check for vaccines at the beginning of the training course.

A dog does not have to take the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Test before taking the AKC Canine Good Citizen Test.

In the case of shelter dogs whose age is not known, an estimated age of 1 year or less will be accepted for testing purposes.

ATTENDANCE

A course for AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy must be at least 6 weeks long. Owners must attend all six classes. We understand that people have emergencies and health issues. In cases where owners miss a class during a several weeks course, a way of making up the work can be worked out with the evaluator.

BENEFITS TO OWNERS

There are some obvious benefits to participation in the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Program. Puppies that attend classes are well-socialized, and they learn the skills that are the foundation for all other learning. But AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy is really about puppy owners. Knowing that a large percentage of dogs who are relinquished to shelters are dogs that have never received formal training, we want to do our part to encourage owners to take their puppies to a puppy class. AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy provides an attractive incentive package for owners who take the time to attend a puppy class. Incentives for owners include: a beautiful, frameable certificate, listing on the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy database, an AKC Puppy Handbook that describes the basics in raising a puppy, a

discount to enroll in Companion Animal Recovery Corporation, and the ongoing monthly newsletter, *Your AKC*. This newsletter includes training tips and up-to-date information every dog owner needs to know. Our goal is to help puppy owners continue to learn about their dogs long beyond puppyhood.

BITING OR GROWLING INCIDENTS

The vast majority of puppies in puppy classes will be friendly, happy dogs, and the job of the instructor/evaluator will be extremely rewarding. There are some exceptions to every rule though, and if you should encounter a situation where a young dog has signs of aggression, there are some things to keep in mind.

First, mouthing is a behavior commonly seen in puppies, and mouthing should not be confused with aggressive biting.

In group classes, it is important to keep everyone safe—including both humans and dogs. For this reason, if a dog has a real problem with aggression, the best course of action might be to suggest the owner have private lessons until the behavior is under control.

CANINE GOOD CITIZEN—RELATIONSHIP TO

The skills on the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy® Program are “pre-CGC” skills. However, dogs do not have to take the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy test in order to take the CGC test.

The AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Program was developed as the result of ongoing requests from owners and evaluators to have a program before CGC that was designed for puppies.

CGC is considered the test of good manners for dogs. AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy® is all about encouraging owners to take their puppies to a beginning class. AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy is the very beginning in training. While attending puppy class is an excellent first step for owners, it should be understood that completing one puppy class will not provide a sufficient level of training for therapy work and other special applications that are typically seen with the CGC Program.

CHECKLIST OF TEST/CLASS EQUIPMENT FOR THE AKC S.T.A.R. PUPPY TEST

ITEMS PROVIDED BY INSTRUCTOR/EVALUATOR

- Test forms (from AKC)
- Clipboards
- Pens for evaluators
- Clean-up supplies (plastic bags, paper towels, liquid cleaner for urine)
- Brochure re: how to get started in AKC Canine Good Citizen (from AKC)
- Camera (if you want to take photos during your classes or graduation)
- Distraction items (pan to drop, shopping bag, etc.)

ITEMS OWNERS SHOULD BRING TO THE AKC S.T.A.R. PUPPY TEST AND CLASSES

- Written proof puppy is in care of a veterinarian (first class only)
- Homework sheets brought to class as directed by teacher (“Describe your plan for exercising your puppy. What do you do each day?”)
- Clean-up bags brought to classes and test.
- Show some form of ID (microchip, collar tag, tattoo) for the puppy in class
- Collar/harness, etc. and leash—owner and instructor’s choice, no electronic collars
- Food treats, dog toy for motivating the puppy
- Brush, comb, grooming mitt, etc. (whichever is used for the puppy)

COLLARS, LEASHES AND EQUIPMENT

By the time the dog is ready to take the AKC Canine Good Citizen Test, we believe he or she should be transitioned to a body harness or a regular collar including well-fitting buckle or slip collars (including martingales) made of leather, fabric or chain. No head collars or pinch collars are permitted in the CGC Test.

In the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Program, owners may work with their instructors to choose and use the collars of their choice. Puppies may wear collars, head collars, or body harnesses. When special training collars such as harnesses and head collars are used, instructors should take extreme care to make sure they are fitted properly. Electronic collars are not permitted in the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Program.

CONDUCT—PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR OF EVALUATORS

As a Canine Good Citizen and AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Evaluator, you represent the AKC and one of its most popular activities. You should maintain a professional demeanor when conducting both classes and testing for AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy. Professionalism also applies to presenting the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Program in a positive manner by being organized, dressing appropriately for working with owners and dogs, showing up on time, calling students in advance if you have to cancel a class, maintaining high ethical standards, using good social skills and using good judgment when teaching classes and assessing dogs.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Evaluators for AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy should avoid any situations that appear to be a Conflict of Interest. Evaluators may not test dogs they own in the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy test—this would be hard because the test requires the dog attend at least 6 weeks of class.

CORRECTIONS

The AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Program encourages owners to have fun with their dogs while training. Harsh corrections are not permitted in the test, and we hope that they will not be permitted in your classes.

Throughout the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy test, evaluators can encourage handlers to PRAISE and interact with their dogs. With the approval of the instructor/evaluator, if these techniques are consistent with the instructor's teaching methods, food and/or a favorite toy may be used as a reward and a lure during testing and training.

Keep in mind that food reinforcers and toys will need to be faded out by the time students are ready to take the AKC Canine Good Citizen Test.

DISABILITIES—DOGS

Puppies with disabilities such as the loss of a leg, deafness or blindness are welcome in the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Program. Puppies must perform all items to pass the test, however, handlers may use hand signals, gestures or other cues to which the dog can respond. There are no breed-specific exceptions to the test requirements (e.g., a puppy may not skip the sit exercise because “this breed can’t be taught to sit.”).

DISABILITIES—HANDLERS

Handlers with disabilities are encouraged to participate in the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Program. Sometimes, it may be necessary to make minor changes to standard procedures in order to accommodate handlers with disabilities in the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Test. In cases where you have any questions about adapting a test item, call the AKC for assistance.

ELIMINATING (URINATING/DEFECATING) DURING TEST

In the AKC Canine Good Citizen Test, dogs who eliminate during testing should not pass the test.

But remember, some of the puppies in the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Program may still be having some issues with bladder control. In the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Program, dogs are not penalized for eliminating during testing as long as the owner is prepared to clean up after the dog. The owner should have a bag and may use the evaluator’s paper towels, spray cleaner, etc. Owners should be reminded before class and testing that they should take their puppies outside.

FEEDBACK TO PARTICIPANTS

As a AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Evaluator, it will be your job to give each participant some feedback at the end of the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy test. If a puppy passes the test, giving feedback will be easy. A big smile and “Congratulations, your dog has passed the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy test!” will be the favorite message of most evaluators.

But what about the owner who has not practiced during the class (so the puppy hasn’t got a clue how to perform the skills), or the owner who attends only part of the classes, or the puppy who still has behavioral issues at the end of the class? In these cases, you’ll have to say something like, “You have a great puppy—if you can make up the classes you missed, you’ll be able to take the test,” or, “I know you love your puppy and maybe you’ve been busy, but it looks like you haven’t had time week to week to work on the skills,” or, “We’ve talked about your puppy and how he is aggressive...he’s not ready to pass the test. I would very much like to continue working with you. I think your puppy may need some special sessions.”

The main thing to remember is to show appreciation for the owner being concerned enough to enroll in the class. Dog owners are learners too, so don’t forget what you know about shaping and reinforcement!

FEES

Evaluator/instructors may charge fees for offering puppy classes that will conclude with the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy test. Fees are for the evaluator/instructor’s time and for the service that is provided. Fees are generally determined by what the market will bear within a given community.

FOLLOW-UP TRAINING AND TESTING

After AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy, the next logical step in training is the AKC Canine Good Citizen Program. AKC can provide evaluators with any information needed on helping owners get involved with the next level of training.

FOOD, TOYS, CLICKERS (DURING TESTING)

Food, toys, and clickers are not permitted in the AKC Canine Good Citizen test. By the time dogs are ready for CGC testing, we believe they should be able to work for the few short minutes of the test without receiving food, toys or clicks. Owners can praise their dogs throughout the CGC test.

Food IS permitted in the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy® Program in both training and testing, as long as the evaluator/instructor approves of the use of food in classes. During the test, food can be used as a reward and as a lure to encourage dogs to sit, down, etc. Clickers are also permitted.

In the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy test, we want to see that owners have learned some basics related to training their dogs and they are on their way with the very beginnings of training.

INSTRUCTIONS TO PARTICIPANTS

Some of the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy test items will be administered throughout the course. At the end of the course, the evaluator will test the puppies on some of the items (see page 15). At the beginning of the test, evaluators should remind participants that puppies are not required to perform with the precision required in formal obedience. Talking to the dog throughout the test is acceptable and if permitted by the evaluator, food lures and rewards can be used. Body language on the part of the handler is fine (e.g., getting on knees, clapping hands to get the puppy to come when called).

Nervous beginning handlers may need to be reminded to communicate with the puppy, “Tell him what you want him to do.” The AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy should be a fun experience for the handler and the puppy.

LIABILITY FOR EVALUATORS

When an evaluator passes a dog on the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy test, he or she is simply stating that the puppy was observed to perform the skills on the test. While we try to do our very best to teach owners how to be responsible and to train their dogs, we can make no guarantees with regard to the future behavior of animals or humans.

LOCATIONS

AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy tests are held in the same place as classes normally held by the evaluator/instructor. A list of evaluators is on the AKC website. Many CGC evaluators are trainers who provide puppy classes.

NUMBER OF EVALUATORS FOR TESTING

The AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy test can be administered by one evaluator/instructor. However, during the testing, helpers are needed so that the dog can walk by other people. Throughout the several weeks of classes, puppies should be exposed to other people and dogs. The students in the class can help each other with socializing their puppies.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

Evaluator/instructors will determine how many students are in their puppy classes. This can vary depending on the size of the space available for classes and whether or not there are any helpers.

If an evaluator/instructor decides to hold a course for only one or two owners and their dogs, the evaluator should keep in mind that socialization with people and other dogs is a primary goal of AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy. Opportunities to interact with others should be facilitated if there are not enough students in the class to do this.

PAPERWORK REQUIREMENTS

1. Test Summary Forms

Upon completion of the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Test with a group of students, the evaluator/instructor will send to AKC the one-page TEST SUMMARY FORM for AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy. This form is similar to the CGC Test Summary Form.

Test Summary Forms should be sent even if there is only one dog in the class.

AKC encourages evaluators to submit Test Summary forms online. This system only takes seconds and within a few days, the evaluator will receive a confirmation that the report was received. http://www.akc.org/events/cgc/evaluator_test_summary_form.cfm

2. Owner Test Registration Forms (3-part forms)

Upon completion of the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Test, the evaluator will keep one (yellow) copy of the test forms for his or her records. The evaluator will keep yellow copies for one year.

The evaluator will give the owner 2 copies of the 3-part test form. The owner will send in the original copy to AKC to request the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Packet. The owner will keep the second copy for his or her records as proof of having passed the test until the certificate arrives.

QUALIFICATIONS OF AKC S.T.A.R. PUPPY EVALUATORS

AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy evaluators must be approved as AKC CGC Evaluators.

CGC evaluators must have at least 2 years' experience teaching other people and their dogs. They cannot be suspended from AKC, and they must have experience working with a variety of breeds. They must be at least 18 years old. Once the CGC Evaluator application is approved, the evaluator must take an online test on the CGC Evaluator Guide.

There is no additional evaluator fee for AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Evaluators.

RETESTING

Evaluators may choose to allow puppies who have only missed one test item to take the test again after other dogs have been tested.

TEST FORMATS—SEE PART II (page 14)

For details regarding the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy test format, see Part II. Basically, some of the items will be checked during the classes and others will be administered as the “graduation test” at the end of the puppy training course.

TESTING YOUR OWN DOG

See Conflict of Interest (page 6).

TESTING MATERIALS

Test kits, complete with posters and other helpful information, are available for purchase from the AKC. For prices or to order test kits by check or credit card, contact:

American Kennel Club at (919) 233-9767

Online Store—www.akc.org (click on the Online Store)

THERAPY DOGS

Many puppy owners express an interest in sharing their dog with others through animal-assisted therapy work. Therapy dogs must be well-trained and reliable. The beginning level of training in AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy doesn't prepare an animal for therapy work, although it is a great first step. Evaluator/instructors can begin talking to students about going on to earn the AKC Canine Good Citizen award after AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy.

TITLE—IS AKC S.T.A.R. PUPPY A TITLE?

AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy is not a title. It is an award and therefore, it will not show up on an AKC registered dog's title record. All dogs who earn the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy distinction will be listed in the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy records at AKC.

VACCINES AND LICENSES

Evaluator/instructors are encouraged to check for proof of vaccines and licenses that are appropriate in their communities. For the purpose of the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy test, at some point during the course, owners will be asked to provide the instructor with proof that the dog has a veterinarian and has had a basic examination.

PART II.

SCORING SPECIFIC TEST ITEMS

General Instructions

The AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Test protocol as set forth in this Evaluator Guide should be followed. Handlers may talk to their dogs throughout the test and with the approval of the evaluator/instructor, they may use food and toys during classes and testing.

Evaluators should encourage the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy test to be fun and, if necessary, handlers should be reminded to praise their puppies and have fun.

Evaluators should not make the test easier by eliminating items, nor should they make it harder by requiring the participants/dogs to perform at a higher level than the test requires. However, instructors can certainly teach additional skills and have the students performing at a higher level in classes when the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy test is given.

Format

The following table shows which items can be observed/checked off during classes and which items should be administered as a test at the end of the course:

ITEMS ON TEST	WHEN TO SCORE TEST
OWNER BEHAVIORS	
1) Shows proof puppy is in the care of a vet (exam and vaccines)	Do the first night
2) Puppy appears healthy and active for breed	Last class
3) Owner describes exercise plan	Any one of the classes
4) Attend at least 6 classes	Last class
5) Owner brings bags to class for clean-up	Last class
6) Owner has obtained some form of ID for puppy	Any one of the classes

ITEMS ON TEST	WHEN TO SCORE TEST
PUPPY BEHAVIORS	
7) Free of aggression toward people	Last class
8) Free of aggression toward other puppies	Last class
9) Tolerates collar, harness, etc. (owner choice)	Any one of the classes
10) Owner can hug or hold puppy	Any one of the classes
11) Puppy allows owner to take away a treat or toy	Any one of the classes

ITEMS ON TEST	WHEN TO SCORE TEST
PRE-CANINE GOOD CITIZEN TEST BEHAVIORS	
12) Allows petting by someone other than the owner	Any one of the classes
13) Grooming (owner handles ears, feet)	Any one of the classes
14) Walks on a leash—follows owner in straight line	Last class
15) Walks by other people	Last class
16) Sits on command (owner can use food)	Last class
17) Down on command (owner can use food)	Last class
18) Comes to owner from 5 ft.	Last class
19) Reaction to distractions	Any one of the classes
20) Stay on leash with another person	Any one of the classes

OWNER BEHAVIORS

Item 1. Shows proof puppy is in the care of a veterinarian (has had an exam, vaccines).

In most cases, owners will be required to present proof of vaccines when registering for the class (or will bring to the first class).

Once the evaluator has seen proof the puppy is in the care of a veterinarian, this paperwork does not need to be shown again at the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy test held during the last class.

Item 2. Puppy appears healthy and appropriately active for its breed.

During the last class, the evaluator will score the test form to indicate if over the entire course, the puppy has been appropriately active for its breed and in good general health.

Item 3. Owner describes adequate daily play and exercise plan.

During any one of the classes, the owner will describe a play and exercise plan that is appropriate for the puppy. The evaluator may observe this by having a class discussion at the beginning of a class, or students could be asked at one class to bring back a “homework” sheet describing the puppy’s exercise plan. After collecting these, the evaluator/instructor could give feedback to the class regarding how to ensure puppies get adequate exercise.

Item 4. Owner and puppy attend at least 6 training classes taught by an AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy evaluator.

Enrolling in a class is not enough—we want to make sure that owners and puppies actually attend at least 6 classes. (It is acceptable in a 6-week course for the first night to be “humans only” without the puppy). In cases where there is an illness, etc., an evaluator can work with the owner to plan a make-up class or assignment. The evaluator will score the test form during the last class to indicate if the attendance requirement has been met.

Item 5. Owner brings bags to classes for cleaning up after puppy.

During the classes, the evaluator will observe to make sure owners bring clean-up bags. If the instructor is not sure if someone has a bag, he/she

can ask to see everyone's bag(s). When there is an accident, the evaluator will observe to make sure owners clean up after their puppies. During the last class, the evaluator will score the test form to indicate if the owner has been a responsible owner with regard to cleaning up after his or her dog.

Item 6. Owner has obtained some form of ID for the puppy (collar tag, tattoo, microchip, etc).

During any one of the classes, the evaluator will check to make sure owners have some form of identification in the form of a collar tag, microchip, or tattoo for their puppies. We suggest that evaluators give owners some time to get an ID system in place, so checking for identification at the first class might not be a good idea. If you send out registration materials for the course, you can tell students well in advance they will be required to show some form of ID in order to pass the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy test.

PUPPY BEHAVIORS

Item 7. Free of aggression toward people during 6 to 8 weeks of classes.

At the last class, the instructor will score the test form to indicate the puppy is not aggressive toward people. The instructor will make this decision based on his or her direct observation in the classes along with the owner's report of the dog's behavior at home.

In cases where a puppy is aggressive, evaluator/instructors will work to help the owner solve the problem. If the problem is beyond what the evaluator/instructor is equipped to handle in a group class, private lessons or referral to other canine professionals may be the most appropriate solution.

Item 8. Free of aggression toward other puppies in the class.

At the last class, the instructor will score the test form to indicate the puppy is not aggressive toward other puppies in the class. The instructor will make this decision based on his or her direct observation in the classes along with the owner's report of the dog's behavior at home.

In cases where a puppy is aggressive toward other dogs, evaluator/instructors will work to help the owner solve the problem. If the problem is beyond what the evaluator/instructor is equipped to han-

dle in a group class, private lessons or referral to other canine professionals may be the most appropriate solution.

Item 9. Tolerates collar, head collar or body harness of owner's choice.

During any one of the classes, the evaluator can score the test form to indicate if the puppy will tolerate a collar, harness, etc. The collar type (including harnesses) may be selected by the owner and evaluator/instructor.

Owners should be advised that for taking the AKC Canine Good Citizen Test, the dog will need to be trained well enough to work on a slip or buckle collar.

Item 10. Owner can hug or hold the puppy (depending on the size of the puppy).

During any one of the classes, the evaluator can score the test form to indicate if the puppy tolerates being held or hugged by the owner.

Item 11. Puppy allows owner to take away a treat or toy.

During any one of the classes, the evaluator can score the test form to indicate if the puppy will allow the owner to take away a food treat or a favorite toy. Puppies can try to hold onto the food/toy, but can not growl, bite or snap.

PRE-CANINE GOOD CITIZEN TEST BEHAVIORS

Item 12. Allows (in any position) petting by a person other than the owner.

During any one of the classes, the evaluator can score the test form to indicate if the puppy will allow a person other than the owner to pet it. Squirring and wiggling is okay, but any signs of aggression are not permitted. Owner may hold small dogs.

Item 13. Grooming—Allows owner handling and brief exam (ears, feet).

During any one of the classes, the evaluator can score the test form to indicate if the puppy will allow the owner to briefly handle its feet and ears. This test item leads into the CGC item on grooming, so in classes, evaluators may want to have owners work on using a brush, comb, etc.

Item 14. Walks on a leash—follows owner on lead in a straight line (15 steps).

During the last class, the evaluator will score the test form to indicate if the puppy will walk on a lead to follow the owner. The owner will walk about 15 steps. The evaluator may mark the beginning and end of the line. Puppies do not have to be in the heel position but the owner can not pull them along. Owners are permitted to clap their hands, make noises and encourage the puppies to walk. If permitted by the evaluator/instructor, food or toys are permitted as lures.

Item 15. Walks by other people—walks on leash past people who are 5 ft. away.

During the last class, the evaluator will score the test form to indicate if the puppy will walk past people who are 5 ft. away. The puppy can not lunge at the people or excessively pull to go to them. The owner may use food or a toy to distract the puppy if permitted by the evaluator/instructor.

Item 16. Sits on command—owner may use a food lure.

During the last class, the evaluator will score the test form to indicate if the puppy will sit on command. If permitted by the evaluator/instructor, food lures are permitted. The owner should not be pushing the puppy into position by pushing hard on the hips to force the dog to sit.

Item 17. Down on command—owner may use a food lure.

During the last class, the evaluator will score the test form to indicate if the puppy will lay down on command. If permitted by the evaluator/instructor, food lures are permitted. The owner should not be jerking the front legs out from under the puppy in order to force the dog to lay down.

Item 18. Comes to owner from 5 ft. when name is called.

During the last class, the evaluator will score the test form to indicate if the puppy will come to the owner from 5 ft. when the puppy's name is called. The owner can get on his or her knees, clap and make noises to encourage the puppy to come. Food or toys may be used as rewards for coming if these are permitted by the evaluator/instructor.

Item 19. Reaction to distractions—distractions are presented 15 ft. away from the puppy.

During any one of the classes, the evaluator will present some distractions (e.g., pulling a cart, swinging a shopping bag, dropping a chair, etc) 15 ft. away from the puppy. The evaluator will score the test form to indicate if the puppy had an acceptable response. Puppies can show casual interest or be slightly startled, but can not react with extreme fear, withdrawal, or aggression.

Item 20. Stay on leash with another person (owner walks 10 steps and returns).

During any one of the classes, the evaluator/instructor will ask the owner to hand the puppy's leash to another person. The owner will walk 10 steps and return to the puppy. The puppy can show mild signs of distress, but it should not have an extreme reaction.

Shaping is the best way to teach this exercise for dogs who are concerned about owners leaving. The owner steps back 1 ft. and returns, then 2 ft., etc.

If owners are using food rewards, remember to tell owners not to return to the dog and give it a treat if it is squealing and/or pulling on the leash.

NOTES

NOTES



American Kennel Club®

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The American Kennel Club is dedicated to upholding the integrity of its Registry, promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function. Founded in 1884, the AKC and its affiliated organizations advocate for the purebred dog as a family companion, advance canine health and well-being, work to protect the rights of all dog owners and promote responsible dog ownership.

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