



Canine Good Citizen • Week Two

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Test Items Covered This Week:

Test Item #1: Accepting a Friendly Stranger

Test Item #2: Sitting Politely for Petting

Test Item #4: Out for a Walk

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

Test Item #7: Coming When Called

Test Item #10: Supervised Separation

Stay

Increase distance in your dog's sit/down stay. Set your dog up for success! If your dog breaks position, reset and shorten your distance the next time. Make sure not to release your dog from a distance as the CGC test requires returning to your dog before releasing them. Put your dog in a stay, occasionally walk up to your dog treat/reward then walk away again. This will help for a more relaxed stay and your dog won't anticipate the release word. By test day your dog should remain in a stay while you walk 20 feet away and then immediately return to release them.

Polite Greetings

Continue the practice sessions from last week and occasionally have your dog sit as a person walks by. Be your dog's scout, if a person asks to say hello make sure to say "Yes you can, please let me have them sit first!" If your dog lunges toward the person when they try to pet them, circle your dog away from the person and walk away. Reproach and try again. If you aren't having success move on and say, "My dog isn't ready to say hello" and walk away. If you aren't having luck finding a person willing to say hello to your dog, visit a pet store!

Leash Walking Skills

Practice "U Turns" and changing speed and direction while out on a walk. Make frequent stops by asking your dog to sit every time you stop walking. Eventually this will become a learned behavior for your dog. If your dog knows a *wait* or *stop* cue utilize this verbal command while walking as well.

Supervised Separation

Find a trusted person that your dog already knows to help you with this activity. Encourage your helper to say “May I watch your dog for you?” and hand the leash to them and walk out of sight. Remain out of sight for 10 seconds and then return. Have your helper provide feedback – Did your dog immediately show concern and pull forward trying to find you? Depending on how your dog reacted you may want to slowly increase your duration of separation over the weeks before test day.

Please ask your trainers for tips on separation anxiety if you need additional guidance!

Coming When Called

As a Canine Good Citizen, your dog must learn to come when called in different environments. First make sure your dog has a reliable recall from 10 feet away at your home. If you have success within your home, try in a new environment such as outside. If you can't find a fully enclosed area other than your home, utilize a long lead or have a helper hold the leash and run with your dog.

Remember to occasionally use verbal praise & encouragement in place of treat reward during practice sessions!