



Canine Good Citizen • Week Three

Becky Harris, CPDT-KA, CGC Evaluator

Test Items Covered This Week:

Test Item #1: Accepting a Friendly Stranger

Test Item #2: Sitting Politely for Petting

Test Item #5: Walking Through a Crowd

Test Item #8: Reaction to Another Dog

Test Item #9: Reaction to Distraction

Walking Through a Crowd

This test item demonstrates that your dog can walk politely and under control in a public setting. During the test, you and your dog will pass closely through a crowd of at least three people. Your dog may show slight interest in the person but may not jump, have excessive strain on the leash or seek safety behind their handler.

Continue your practice homework for test items #1 and #2. As you see a group of people approach, give your dog positive verbal feedback and keep walking. Cue your dog for a “Heel” or a “Mobile Watch” (*eye contact while walking*) before you pass.

Once you are having success out on walks, practice walking by a group of people waiting for a bus stop. It may seem strange for your dog to see a group of people standing around versus walking.

Take a field trip! There are plenty of dog friendly shops in Portland, or visit a new pet store that your dog has not yet explored. Practice several of your test items in your chosen public setting.

Tip: Be mindful when making decisions for where and when you train your dog. If you go to a large store such as Home Depot at 5:30pm, your focus should be centered on Test Item #9. If you go to a quieter environment and/or during off-peak hours, you can practice the other training Test Items such as stay and polite greetings.

Reaction to Another Dog

Practice the same training techniques above for this test item. Set your dog up for success by learning their threshold limit as we discussed during class.

This test item can be particularly difficult if your dog is overly excitable around other dogs. Verbal feedback is especially important during this test item. Make yourself more interesting than the other dog approaching by immediately talking to your dog, using upbeat positive voices i.e., *“let’s keep moving!”* and brisk walking.

Not every dog you encounter in the real world makes for a positive practice session. Pay attention to the other dog and owner. Is the owner on their phone and clearly not attentive to their dog? Is their dog barking, lunging, or staring profusely at your dog? These are examples of when passing by another dog may not be successful. Move across the street or walk in the opposite direction if you see these behaviors exhibited.

Your dog may already be able to handle more intense situations like these, but during the training process it’s important to give your dog as much positive associations as possible.

Please bring your dog’s brush (if they have a preference) to class with you next week!