

AKC Urban Canine Good Citizen (CGCUSM)

Evaluator Guide



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PART I

GENERAL INFORMATION

About the AKC Urban CGCSM Title

AKC Urban CGCSM is a test of practical behaviors for dogs who live in and are tested in urban settings. The AKC Urban CGC test is more advanced than Canine Good Citizen and to earn the AKC Urban CGC title, dogs must have a Canine Good Citizen test on record at the American Kennel Club.

Dogs who pass the AKC Urban CGC test earn the official AKC Urban CGC title that is designated by the letters “CGCU” on the dog’s title record.

Whereas Canine Good Citizen tests are most often tested in a ring and situations are simulated (e.g., 3 helpers serve as a “crowd”), the AKC Urban CGC test is done in real situations such as the evaluator and dog owner taking the dog for a walk in the city.

AKC Approved CGC Evaluators administer the AKC Urban CGC test.

AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy[®], and Canine Good Citizen[®], and AKC Community Canine

AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy is the puppy level of the CGC program. “S.T.A.R.” stands for Socialization, Training, Activity and a Responsible owner, all the things every puppy needs. To earn the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy award, puppies and their owners must attend a class lasting at least 6 weeks.

Unlike STAR, if they have the skills, dogs may take the AKC Community Canine and Canine Good Citizen tests without completing classes.

AKC Community Canine is the advanced level of Canine Good Citizen. Dogs who pass the AKC Community Canine test earn the suffix “CGCA” after their names.

- To pass the AKC Community Canine test, the dog must have a CGC test on record at AKC.
- To pass the AKC Urban CGC test, the dog must have a CGC test on record at AKC (AKC Community Canine is not required for AKC Urban CGC).

Age Requirements for Dogs

There is no age limit for dogs taking the AKC Urban CGC test.

There are several exceptions to having no age limit at an AKC Urban CGC test. When AKC Urban CGC tests are given in conjunction with AKC events, clubs enforce the regulations for all activities.

Biting or Growling Incidents

By the time dogs have passed the Canine Good Citizen test and are ready to be evaluated for AKC Urban CGC, the vast majority of dogs who take the test will be friendly, happy animals. However, there are some exceptions to every rule, and if you should ever encounter a situation where a dog might show some signs of aggression, there are some things to keep in mind.

Any dog that growls or snaps at, bites, attacks, or attempts to attack another person or another dog is not a good citizen (which is required of AKC Urban CGC dogs) and must be dismissed from the test. If an Evaluator observes any signs of aggression (biting, snapping, growling, attempting to attack) the test should not be continued.

Further, if any of these behaviors are observed in the immediate testing area prior to or after testing, the Evaluator should send a written report to the AKC CGC Department. If you witness a dog engaging in an aggressive incident after passing the test, you should NOTIFY THE AKC when sending in your Test Summary Form.

ON THE GROUNDS OF AN AKC SHOW: If there is an aggressive incident (biting, growling, snapping) and the test is held in conjunction with an AKC event, dismiss the dog from the test and notify the Show Superintendent and AKC Field Representative immediately! If the dog engages in any aggression, testing should stop.

As an Evaluator, if you are having a difficult time reading the dog and/or you feel uncomfortable, you may tell the owner your concerns and stop the test.

Checklist of Test Equipment for the AKC Urban CGC Test

Most of the testing “materials” for this test will be items that are naturally encountered when the dog is taken for a walk in the city.

Minimum Materials Required

- Test form for each dog (from the AKC)
- Pen for evaluator
- Food for “Leave it” (may use ‘real’ food dropped on sidewalk, etc.)
- Clean up supplies (plastic bag)

Certificates

Prior to testing, the Evaluators should have an AKC Urban CGC test kit. Test kits include the forms dog owners need to send to AKC to request their AKC Urban CGC titles. Having dog owners deal directly with the AKC allows us to quickly resolve any problems related to their dog’s certificate. Evaluators should not send in test forms as a group.

Collars, Leashes and Equipment

All tests must be performed on leash. Dogs should wear well-fitting buckle or slip collars (including martingales) or body harnesses. Body harnesses should not restrict the movement of the dog. Special training equipment such as pinch collars and head collars are not permitted. The leash should be made of either leather or fabric. Retractable leashes may not be used in the test.

We recognize that special training collars may be valuable equipment in the beginning stages of dog training, however, we feel that dogs are ready to be tested after they have been transitioned to a slip or buckle collar (body harnesses are also acceptable). If an evaluator is teaching classes and does not feel comfortable with one of the permitted collars, students may be required to take the test in the type of collar used in class. If the test is advertised for the general public, all of the permitted collar types and body harnesses should be allowed in the test.

Conflict of Interest

AKC Approved Canine Good Citizen Evaluators should avoid any situations that appear to be a conflict of interest. Evaluators may not test dogs they own (or that live in their households) in the AKC Urban CGC test.

Corrections

AKC Urban CGC, like CGC, is a program that encourages owners to have fun with their dogs. Harsh corrections are not permitted in the test and are grounds for dismissal. Throughout the test, dog owners may PRAISE and interact with their dogs.

Disabilities – Dogs

Dogs with disabilities such as the loss of a leg, deafness, or blindness in one eye are welcome in the AKC Urban CGC test and they may earn the official title. Test. Dog owners may use hand signals, gestures, or other cues to which the dog has been trained to respond. There are no breed specific exceptions to the test requirements (e.g., dogs may not skip the sit exercise because “this breed doesn’t like to sit.”)

Disabilities – Handlers

Evaluators may make minor changes to standard procedures to accommodate handlers with disabilities. In cases where there are questions, call the Canine Good Citizen Department for assistance.

Eliminating (Urinating/Defecating) During Test

Any dog that eliminates in an inappropriate place (e.g., the lobby of a public building) during one of the test items should not pass the test. If the dog defecates in an acceptable place on a walk, the dog owner will have a clean-up bag and will clean up after the dog.

Feedback to Participants

To tell a person that the dog needs more training, try something like this. “Your dog did a great job. She passed all of the items except Test 9. She could learn this in a few sessions. I really hope you’ll work on this and try the test again. She’s a wonderful dog.”

In a case where the dog is not close to passing the test, you could try something like the following: “this is really a nice dog. He is so full of energy and it’s clear he loves you. But on these test items, it looks like he needs a little more training... Have you been to any classes that focus on real world skills and are you practicing on walks? Most of these behaviors are skills that could be taught in a matter of weeks. I’m so glad you brought your dog today. I hope you’ll work on this and try again. I can tell by the way this dog watches every move you make, he’d do well in training.”

Fees

Test-giving organizations and individual evaluators may charge a fee for conducting an AKC Urban CGC test. Fees are used to cover the costs of test kits, mailing, copying, and advertising related to the test. Private trainers sometimes charge a fee for a testing session that is commensurate with their hourly rate of service. There is a \$20.00 processing fee that the dog owner will pay to the AKC for the AKC Urban CGC title.

Food

Handlers are not permitted to use food as a reward during the AKC Urban CGC Test. While we recognize that food can be effectively used as a reinforcer during training, it should not be used in the test. As with CGC, the purpose of the AKC Urban CGC test is to determine if the dog relates to the owner and if it can be controlled without food.

Locations

AKC Urban CGC tests should be given in active community settings where the dog and owner cross a street, hear noises, etc. (see test items).

Public buildings and business may be used for testing **ONLY IF** the evaluator has permission to use the setting (such as a business). Tests may not be conducted at the dog owner's home or yard.

Number of Participants

CGC Evaluators should not attempt to run as many dogs through the test as fast as possible. Each handler deserves the time and attention of the evaluator and tests should not be rushed. As long as dogs are well trained, the evaluator may take more than one dog (with owners) for the walk at once, however, this should not be a large group.

Paperwork Requirements

1. Test Summary Form

After each AKC Urban CGC test, Evaluators should send in a **TEST SUMMARY FORM** to AKC. This short, 1-page form simply summarizes the number of dogs tested, how many passed/failed, etc. This also documents the testing that you have done. The **TEST SUMMARY FORM** should be sent to AKC whether there was one dog tested on a given day or 10 dogs. (For AKC Urban CGC, even though dogs may not be tested together, count the dogs that were tested on the same day for the Test Summary form.

We suggest and prefer that you use the **ONLINE Test Summary** at: http://www.akc.org/events/cgc/evaluator_test_summary_form.cfm.

When you use the Online Test Summary Form, you don't need to send in a paper form. If you should lose the link, remember that all helpful links are posted at the bottom of your CGC Evaluator Newsletter every month. If you have to use the paper Test Summary Form, the bottom of the page is marked GK9U65.

2. Test Registration Forms (the actual test form for the dog owner)

The Test Registration Forms are the forms that evaluators score at the test. Each test item is checked “pass” or “needs more training” and if the dog passes, **this is the form the owner sends to AKC to request the title and title certificate.**

The Evaluator should keep the yellow copy of the 3-part form for one year. If an owner loses his or her paperwork and needs proof of passing the test, the Evaluator may be contacted. The dog owner receives 1) the original copy of the test form to send to AKC for the certificate, and 2) the back copy with test items for his or her records.

If an owner waits longer than a year to send paperwork to AKC, the dog will need to be retested.

Qualifications of Evaluators

Evaluators who administer AKC Urban CGC tests must be AKC Approved Canine Good Citizen evaluators with an active status.

Retesting

Evaluators may choose to allow dogs who have only missed one test item to take the test again. In most cases, since the test is given in the real world, if a dog has a problem with a test item, more training will be needed.

Service Dogs

Service dogs help people with disabilities. Dogs who pass the AKC Urban CGC or AKC’s Canine Good Citizen test are not service dogs and they do not have special access rights in public places (stores, restaurants, planes, etc.) Further, AKC Urban CGC and AKC’s Canine Good Citizen tests are not therapy dog tests. Therapy dogs are dogs who volunteer with their owners to help others.

Testing Your Own Dog

See Conflict of Interest.

Testing Materials

For prices or to order test kits by check or credit card, contact:

The American Kennel Club at (919) 233-9767 or visit www.akc.org and go to the Online Store, or go directly to:

http://classic.akc.org/store/products/index.cfm?category_cde=CGC&product_view=thumb

or www.akc.org

(type “CGC” in the search box – the order form is here)

PART II

SCORING SPECIFIC TEST ITEMS

General instructions: The test protocol as set forth in this Evaluator Guide should be followed. Handlers may talk to their dogs and provide praise throughout the test. The test items should be in as natural, realistic format as possible. Evaluators should encourage the test to be fun.

Evaluators should not make the test easier by eliminating test items, nor should they require a higher level of performance than the test requires. Of course, evaluators may choose to teach more advanced skills in their classes.

AKC URBAN CGC TEST

AKC Urban Canine Good Citizen (the “CGCU” title)

To earn the CGCU title, the dog must 1) be registered or listed with AKC (AKC number, PAL, or AKC Canine Partners number) and, 2) already have a Canine Good Citizen award/title on record. Dogs must pass all 10 items of the test to receive the CGCU title.

AKC URBAN CGC TEST ITEMS

1. Exit/enter doorways with no pulling in dog friendly buildings.

Exit building to start test, additional Public buildings items below (#7).

2. Walk through a crowd on a busy urban sidewalk.

- People are walking fast and coming toward the dog (1-ft. away).
- Tolerate distractions – e.g., people wearing hats, coats, men, women, etc.

3. Appropriate reaction to city distractions. This includes movement, noises and walking on a variety of surfaces. Examples:

Noises: horns, sirens, construction noise, person yelling, etc.

Moving objects: skateboard, bike, carts, person running, etc.

Surfaces: concrete, grate, grass, plastic tarp, wet sidewalk, etc.

4. Crossing street: Stop at corner, stand or sit to wait and cross with no pulling (on leash, with owner). Crosses street under control.

5. Ignore food on sidewalk. (dropped food, cups, bags, cans, paper in which food was wrapped, etc.)

6. Person walks up and pets dog. May be carrying an item, small dog in bag, etc. Unlike in AKC Community Canine, person does not put bag down to pet dog.

7. Public Building (that is dog friendly). Down stay (3 min) in lobby or outdoor area, walks under control in building (slick surface or carpeted floor).

8. Stairs, steps or elevator under control.

Which one(s)? _____

Steps (at least 3): Up Down

Elevator: Enters under control Exits
 Rides under control

9. House trained for apartment, condo, city living. Owner may verify this item.

10. Transportation. Owner's choice depending on transportation needs.

Car. Enters/exits, remains under control during ride. (Crate? Seatbelt?)

Subway. Small dog in bag for ride (large dogs are usually not permitted).

Dog friendly cab (enters, exits, or allows to be put in/taken out) under control.



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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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