

THE KENNEL CLUB GOOD CITIZEN DOG SCHEME – SILVER AWARD



DESCRIPTION OF EXERCISES

AIM

The Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme Silver Award aims to build upon the skills learned in the Bronze Award whilst increasing the level of difficulty. The Silver Award is a natural progression of practical dog training skills and introduces new concepts such as the controlled greeting, road walk and vehicle control exercises which are important in everyday life situations. The Silver Award aims to provide handlers with a good knowledge of understanding and training their canine companion.

ELIGIBILITY

The Scheme is aimed at all dogs whether Kennel Club registered or not, there is no age limit. For the Silver Test Examiners will only accept dogs that have already been awarded a Bronze Award Certificate. Handlers must show that they have means of cleaning up after their dog and that it has proper Identification. It is a legal requirement to inscribe the name and the address of the owner on the collar or on a plate or disc attached to it. Engraved tags can be purchased from the Kennel Club website. With effect from the 6th April 2016 dogs are required to have a microchip which is registered on a Defra-approved database, in the UK (check exemptions). Examiners are required to check each dog's eligibility and the suitability of their lead, collar and equipment prior to the test commencing.

STANDARD REQUIRED

The test is non-competitive but examiners should be satisfied that dogs are worthy of passing. Examiners should also observe the spirit of the Scheme, which is to produce happy, contented dogs, which are well behaved, and under the control of handlers who fully understand the responsibilities to their dogs, to their neighbours and to the community. Handlers are permitted only one attempt at each exercise under test, unless there are exceptional circumstances or where a dog has been clearly disadvantaged or interfered with. A Certificate will be awarded when the required standard has been achieved. Dogs are only permitted one attempt at each exercise.

Examiners should be aware that they should give clear instructions to the handlers as to how they would like the exercise conducted in order to avoid confusion.

Any uncontrolled, mouthing, barking, growling or other threatening behaviour is not acceptable and further training will be required before the dog can be passed. In order for it to be meaningful the testing must be carried out thoroughly. Emphasis must be placed upon the ability of the handler to handle, care for and generally be responsible for their dog.

Examiners can reserve the right to insist that the handler secures the dog in a safer manner if the equipment used is deemed inadequate. An additional lead could be used in this instance.

THE TEST

Dogs may be tested singly or in groups, those passing all parts of the test will receive a Good Citizen Dog Scheme Silver Certificate. The Examiner will enter the comment "Passed" or "Not Ready" along side each exercise. In order to receive a Certificate, dogs must receive the comment "Passed" for each exercise during one testing session.

The Club/Organisation arranging the test will be responsible for appointing an Examiner and the standards required are stated in the Scheme's Guidelines and Information Handbook and should be strictly adhered to. The Good Citizen Dog Scheme Handbook can be purchased or downloaded from the Scheme's website www.gcds.org.uk. It is the responsibility of the Club hosting the Test to provide a suitable microchip scanner.

HANDOUTS

Literature to be given out at the beginning of each training course:-

Silver Award Description of Exercises

Canine Code (including Responsibility and Care)

DESCRIPTION OF EXERCISES

Exercise 1 - Play with the Dog

The object of this exercise is to demonstrate that the dog will play with its handler. Play adds an extra dimension to a dog's life and can be used to make training fun. When instructed to do so the handler should commence to play with the dog. Play should be under the handler's control and if it involves articles they should be readily given up by the dog.

Note: Play should be appropriate to the dog under test but should not include play fighting. Formal retrieves will not be deemed as appropriate play. It is recommended that the Examiner commences with this exercise.

Exercise 2 - Road Walk

The object of this exercise is to test the ability of the dog to walk on a lead under control on a public highway. This exercise should be carried out at a suitable outdoor location and an occasional tight lead is acceptable. The handler and dog should walk along a pavement, execute a turn, then stop at the kerb where the dog should remain steady and controlled. Having observed the Highway Code, they should proceed to the other side, turn and continue walking. Distractions should be incorporated such as passing vehicles or bicycles, people, wheelchairs, prams, pushchairs, etc.

Note: The turns are only tests of ability to change direction.

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Exercise 3 - Rejoin handler

The object of this exercise is for the dog to remain steady, off lead, while the handler moves away, the dog will then rejoin when instructed to do so. Having left the dog and moved approximately ten paces away, when directed to do so, the handler should call the dog. Having rejoined, the dog should stop close to the handler in any position, the lead shall be replaced.

Note: The dog should not rejoin until instructed, but minor anticipation will be acceptable.

Exercise 4 - Stay in One Place for Two Minutes

The object of this exercise is that the dog will stay on the spot while the handler moves away for two minutes. The handler should remain in sight. The handler should place the dog on lead in any position of their choice i.e. stand, sit or down. Upon instruction, having quietly dropped the lead, the handler will move a distance of five paces away for a period of two minutes. The test is completed when the handler returns to the dog's side and picks up the lead.

Note: This exercise is a test to see if the dog will stay in one place without changing position. The dog must stay in the position it is left in.

Exercise 5 - Vehicle Control

The object of this exercise is for the handler to get the dog in and out of a vehicle in a controlled manner. The dog should remain quiet, relaxed and under control during this exercise. Without pulling, the dog should be taken on lead towards a vehicle and remain steady whilst the handler opens the vehicle door. The dog should not attempt to get in until instructed but should then enter willingly and the door should be closed. The handler, Examiner and, if necessary, a driver will get into the vehicle. The engine should be started and run for a short time to enable the examiner to assess the affect upon the dog, which at all times, should remain quiet, relaxed, under control and not at any time become a nuisance to the driver. The dog will then be instructed to exit in an orderly manner. The handler should then close the door with the dog calmly under control. *Note: Only physically able dogs should be invited to jump into the vehicle and where appropriate, dogs may be lifted in and out of the vehicle. It is highly recommended that when travelling, dogs are secure in a vehicle. However, dogs should not be penalised if handlers do not use specific types of equipment recommended for safe canine travel.*

Exercise 6 - Come away from Distractions

The object of this exercise is for the handler to remain in control of their dog when there are distractions. The handler should take the dog, on lead, to a gathering of people with dogs also on lead. When instructed to do so, the lead should be removed and the handler should walk or run away calling the dog, which should return without delay and be placed on the lead.

Note: Dogs of an unruly nature will not take part in this exercise or be part of the group.

Exercise 7 - Controlled Greeting

The object of this exercise is to demonstrate that the dog will not jump up. Should this happen, the handler must be able to successfully instruct the dog to cease. The Examiner will greet the dog as they may do when entering a house. A dog that does not jump up will pass.

Note: The Examiner should not over incite the dog to jump up. A dog displaying poor temperament will not pass.

Exercise 8 - Food Manners

The object of this exercise is for the dog to have good manners when aware of food. Food should be handled or consumed while the dog, on a loose lead, is taken in close proximity to it. The dog should not unduly respond to this temptation, i.e. not to beg for food or steal.

Note: The Examiner should be satisfied that the dog has been taken close enough to the food to be aware of it.

Exercise 9 - Examination of the Dog

The object of this exercise is to demonstrate that the dog will allow inspection of its body by a stranger as might be undertaken by a veterinary surgeon. The dog on lead will be required to be placed for inspection of its mouth, teeth, throat, eyes, ears, stomach, tail and feet whilst standing, sitting or lying down as required. Other than mild avoidance, the dogs should allow inspection without concern. The lead must be held securely by the handler throughout the exercise. The lead, collar and equipment should not be used to restrain the dog. If required the Examiner can insist that if applicable a head collar or body harness is removed if it interferes with the inspection.

Note: It is the responsibility of training officials to ensure that only suitable dogs take part in this exercise. The handler may assist the examiner in opening the dog's mouth, so that the examiner can touch and inspect the mouth appropriately.

Note for Instructors: It is the responsibility of training officials to ensure that only suitable dogs take part in this exercise. The handler may assist the examiner in opening the dog's mouth, so that the examiner can touch and inspect the mouth appropriately.

Exercise 10 - Responsibility and Care

The object of this exercise is to test the knowledge of the handler on specific subjects relating to owning a dog. The Examiner should construct questions based on section one and two of Responsibility and Care. Topics include – a dog's needs, illness, responsibilities of ownership, other responsibilities, children, barking, dogs and stationary vehicles and vehicle travel. The questions should not be phrased in an ambiguous manner and where necessary, Examiners should rephrase the same question in an attempt to bring out the correct answer from the handler. At the start of each training course, in addition to the Description, handlers should be given a copy of the Canine Code and Responsibility and Care section. There should be a session during which the importance of these topics in every day life situations are discussed.

Note: Only one numbered item may constitute a question. The handler should be able to give six out of eight correct answers from section one and two of the Responsibility and Care section.

RESPONSIBILITY AND CARE (SECTIONS ONE AND TWO)

The handler should be able to give six out of eight correct answers from Sections One and Two.

A DOG'S NEEDS

A dog owner must be aware of a dog's needs and they are:

1. Water - A dog's needs a constant supply of clean drinking water.
2. Meals - One or two meals a day are suitable for most dogs.
3. Food- Feed the dog regularly a nutritionally balanced diet.
4. Exercising - All dogs need exercise and where possible they should be taken to places where they can safely run free appropriate to their age.
5. Family Unit- All dogs need to be able to feel part of the family unit.
6. Leadership - A dog knows there will be leaders within the family unit. Leaders should not include the dog.
7. Company and affection – Dogs need company and affection without being excessive.
8. Sleeping Arrangements – A dog needs its own place to sleep, so provide somewhere suitable.
9. Register your dog with a veterinary practice and discuss with your veterinary surgeon the necessary vaccinations, frequency of boosters, worming, flea prevention and health checks.
10. Stimulation – Dogs need to be stimulated through play, training and interaction.

ILLNESS

A dog should display the same demeanour from day to day. So should any of the following occur you should seek veterinary advice:-

11. A dog with a normal healthy appetite refuses to eat and appears unwell.
12. A normally active dog becomes lethargic or does not want to get up.
13. A dog that vomits and shows signs of distress.
14. Its motions are very loose, it has diarrhoea, or is straining.
15. There is loss of blood.
16. A dog that has heatstroke.
17. A dog is unconscious.
18. A dog that is having or has had a fit or seizure.
19. A dog that appears lame or shows discomfort in one or more limbs.
20. A dog that is showing discomfort by excessive external irritation.

Note: It is recommended that you research the symptoms of common illnesses and ailments in dogs. Looking at the individual circumstances, some conditions will require more urgent attention.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF OWNERSHIP

21. Any dog in a public must wear the name and the address of the owner either inscribed on the collar or name or plate/disc attached to it.
22. Ensure your dog is legally compliant by having a microchip.

23. A dog needs its own bowl and should never feed from your plate.
24. Regular examination by rubbing your hands over the dog's body will check for burrs, thistles, ticks or lumps and bumps.
25. Your dog needs to be regularly groomed and kept clean. Never let the dog's coat become matted.
26. Bathing is sometimes necessary and should be done in moderation.
27. Do not allow your dog to become a nuisance to people and other dogs. Ensure close control is maintained at all times.
28. Some dog owners keep their dogs on a lead in a public space for a reason. Do not allow your dog to approach. Respect other dog owners and their dog's.
29. Remember that not everyone is a dog lover and may dislike even a friendly approach from your dog.
30. Where there are other animals such as horses or livestock keep your dog on a lead but pay close attention to the country code. Always consider the safety of yourself and your dog.
31. Be mindful of other users of public spaces.
32. Your dog should not be allowed out on its own.
33. Do not allow the dog to foul in inappropriate places. Be mindful of legislation regarding dog fouling in your area. If fouling does occur, always clean up after the dog and dispose of considerately.
34. Remember that continual barking is a nuisance to others.
35. Obey the rules of eating establishments and never take the dog into the kitchen or food preparation area.
36. Do not leave your dog unattended if you stay away from home or go on holiday.
37. Your vet and your own contact details should be known by the person looking after your dog. Consider the identification details of your dog if it is away from home for any reason.
38. Discuss neutering with your veterinary surgeon to avoid unwanted puppies. Make an informed decision.
39. If you want your bitch to have puppies, seek the advice of a veterinary surgeon.
40. Be aware of toxic substances such as plants, foods and chemicals in your dog's environment. Take appropriate steps to avoid exposure.

Note: The above is intended as a guide only and should not be considered as an exhaustive list of a dog owner's responsibilities.

OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

41. Socialisation

Dogs should be gradually socialised to other strange dogs, people and children and be familiarised with traffic. Not doing so can cause apprehension. Withdrawing a dog from something that frightens it will only make apprehension worse in the long run. Never make eye contact with an unfamiliar dog. All socialisation should be carried out in a careful manner.

42. More than one dog

If owning more than one dog, do not initially try to train two or more together. It has to be remembered that, not only will one



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dog distract the other but when one is admonished, or praised, this will also apply to the other and will be confusing. Always train a dog on a one to one basis with the other out of the way. When both are well behaved individually they can be handled together.

43. Dogs off lead

No matter how well trained or under control a dog might be, it should never be walked off lead in environmentally unsuitable areas or those that do not permit dogs to be off lead.

44. Equipment

A dog's lead should be totally secure and attention should always be paid to worn stitching or a clip that may not be reliable. There are many different types of collar, head collar and body harness available and handlers should ensure that the one they choose to use is in good condition and will not break under strain. Also it should always be adjusted so that, in the event of panic, it would be impossible for the dog to get free. It remains a legal requirement for the dog to wear a collar with legally compliant identification.

45. Babies, children and dogs

When the family has a baby it is natural that much attention will be given to the new arrival. It is therefore important that the dog does not become jealous. Owners should try to ensure that the dog continues to receive the same love and affection.

CHILDREN

Children are usually less predictable than adults and they should be warned: -

- 46. Never to make sudden movements close to a dog.
- 47. Never to scream or suddenly yell close to a dog.
- 48. Never to lunge at a dog, particularly when it is asleep.
- 49. Never to put their face close to a dog's face.
- 50. Never to eat food close to a family dog.
- 51. Never to tease or pull a dog's body or coat.
- 52. Never to ignore a dog's warning growl.
- 53. Never touch a dog whilst it is eating
- 54. Always wash their hands after playing with a dog.
- 55. Always ask permission before touching a dog they do not know.

Note: Children should be reminded to respect all dogs and follow The Kennel Club Safe And Sound Code.

BARKING

Excessive barking at home can be a nuisance, and the way the dog is kept at home may inadvertently encourage the problem.

56. Territorial reasons

Dogs barking for territorial reasons might do so at the front door or a window where they can see people or dogs

approaching. In the garden they may do so at the garden gate or a fence. Excluding them from such areas helps to reduce the habit factor.

57. Predatory or chase instinct

Allowing a dog to constantly indulge in this habit in the garden will exacerbate this problem.

58. Reasons of insecurity

Constant company and excessive reassurance and touching given to an insecure dog may cause stress when left without the company of people. The result may be barking, whining or howling.

59. At night

If it is necessary to vocally command a noisy dog at night, it should be done at a distance. This avoids the dog learning how to call its owner back.

DOGS AND STATIONARY VEHICLES

60. Ventilation for a dog left in a car

Dogs must always be given ample ventilation when left alone in a vehicle. However, during hot weather even windows left wide open and/or shaded may not give sufficient ventilation. In such conditions dogs should not be left in vehicles.

61. Approaches to a vehicle from strangers

Most dogs are territorial when in their vehicle and may become aggressive if strangers put part of their body in through a window or door. Therefore this should always be prevented.

VEHICLE TRAVEL

The psychology of vehicle travel: -

- 62. Dogs should not be a distraction to the driver
- 63. Dogs or puppies should gradually be accustomed to vehicle travel by taking the dog out in the vehicle for very short training journeys.
- 64. Dogs learn to enjoy vehicle travel if they are often taken by vehicle to a place where they have a pleasurable experience.
- 65. Dogs learn to dislike vehicle travel if they are only taken by vehicle to places where they have an unpleasant experience.
- 66. How a dog behaves in a vehicle on the first few journeys will form its habits for the future.

When travelling in a vehicle a dog: -

- 67. Should not be constantly moving around.
- 68. Should be secure so that, in the event of an accident, injury to canine or human passengers is minimised.
- 69. Should not travel with his head out of the window.



THE KENNEL CLUB
Making a difference for dogs

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