



Kennel Union of Southern Africa

# Silver Level Canine Good Citizen Test

## KUSA Canine Good Citizen Test

Any affiliated Club or organisation authorised by the Kennel Union of Southern Africa (KUSA) may hold Canine Good Citizen Tests, which are not competitive. All successful participants will receive appropriate Certificates and Rosettes, subject to the payment of a fee as laid down by KUSA.

There is no limit to the frequency or number of times the Test may be taken by any one dog.

## Entry Qualifications | Silver Level

Any dog, whether pure bred, crossbred or of mixed breeding may take part provided it has been vaccinated as required by state veterinary regulations and municipal by laws. Dogs must be at least nine (9) months old to participate. Dogs that appear to be sick or diseased may be refused acceptance for participation and may be asked to leave the grounds or premises.

**Only dogs that have been awarded a Canine Good Citizen Test (Bronze) Certificate may participate in Canine Good Citizen (Silver) Tests.** The Bronze Certificate number must be recorded on the Test Sheet (Silver level).

## Code of Practice

1. This Code of Practice applies to all Kennel Union Affiliated Clubs *and any other approved organisation* which may wish to host Canine Good Citizen Tests. Copies of this Code must be given to all evaluators, instructors and participants participating in *KUSA Canine Good Citizen Tests*.
2. It is the responsibility of the Club *or other organising body* to ensure that the welfare of the dog is paramount. No activity shall be conducted which permits, encourages or develops aggression in a dog.
3. Clubs *or other organising bodies* should ensure that their evaluators and instructors are conversant with acknowledged methods of dog training and understand the rudiments of dog behaviour. Preference should be given to motivational methods of training which take into account the breed and nature of each individual dog.
4. Evaluators must be alert to the differing levels of experience of both the owners and the dogs and should be courteous at all times.
5. Any person who witnesses harsh handling of a dog at any Test organised by an Affiliated Club *or other organising body* must report the matter to *the management thereof*.
6. At the start of each training course the importance of good behaviour, the socialisation of dogs and the theory of training, should be discussed. Advice must be given on choosing suitable collars, leads etc. and the benefits of positive identification (microchips, tattoos, discs) and certain training articles.
7. The same handler and dog must complete each test as a team. Either the owner or another designated person may handle the dog. Once the test has commenced the owner may not interfere with his dog if another person has been designated to handle the dog.
8. All participants and evaluators shall be at the site where the test is to be held at least thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled time of commencement. The Evaluator shall have discretion to postpone the starting time of the test for a reasonable time if participants are delayed. Any participant who is not present at the end of such postponement shall be regarded as withdrawn from the test and shall not be allowed to participate.
9. The offering of food or baiting a dog is to be discouraged during testing

10. Owners/handlers must be reminded to carry some form of “poop scoop” and to remove fouling caused by their dog.
11. Clubs *and other organising bodies* should promote all aspects of responsible dog ownership, at every opportunity.

### **Evaluators**

Only Evaluators licenced by KUSA to evaluate Canine Good Citizen Tests may do so. There is no restriction on how often an Evaluator may conduct Tests. The Evaluator may not test a dog that he/she owns or co-owns or a dog that is owned or handled by a close member of the Evaluator’s family. The Evaluator has the discretion to determine whether testing should be interrupted or postponed for what ever good reason.

**All Evaluators shall be required to complete and sign the KUSA Judging Contract – J1.**

### **Evaluations**

It is not necessary to have the same Evaluator each time a Test is attempted. Each time a Test is taken the Evaluator must date and initial the Test Sheet and indicate whether “passed” or “not ready”.

### **Participants before starting on the programme**

Must, produce a current Vaccination Record Card. Children must produce proof that they are over eight (8) years of age and have the written approval of their parents or legal guardians.

### **Test Sheets**

Each participant will bring a printed Test Sheet to the evaluation and hand it to the event organiser. It is the responsibility of the participant to ensure the paperwork is correctly completed and signed. Prior to the commencement of the Test, the Evaluator will collect the signed Test sheet from the event organisers. A participant may take all the Tasks at one time or singly, as per the Evaluators instruction. As each Task is completed, the Evaluator will mark the Test Sheet “Passed” or “Not ready”. Those marked “Not Ready” will have to be tested again.

The Club or organising body is to send a copy of the signed and completed Test Sheet to the KUSA Office.

### **Dismissal from the tests**

The Club or organising body reserves the right to dismiss from the Test(s), any dog or person who acts in an aggressive, dangerous or obstreperous manner. The Club or organising body also reserves the right to dismiss from the Test(s) on a temporary basis, any bitch which is on heat and any dog that appears to be sick or diseased.

Physical disciplining of a dog or serious uncontrollable behaviour of a dog prior to the Evaluator taking control of the assembled participants or after he has released them, may be penalised at the discretion of the Evaluator by withdrawing any Test Sheets held by the handler.

### **Summary of Silver Canine Good Citizen Tests**

Before a SILVER certificate is issued, all the following Tasks must have been passed. Dogs may be tested singly or in groups.

#### **Test 1**

##### **Controlled greeting**

This is to demonstrate that the dog will not jump up at visitors etc. The handler will approach a group of at least three (3) people acting in a jovial manner, and greet the Evaluator, or helper. During this greeting, should the dog jump up, the handler must be able to bring the dog under control immediately. The dog should be on lead for this task.

Note: The Evaluator or helpers should not incite the dog to jump up

#### **Test 2**

##### **Present for examination**

The handler will present the dog to the Evaluator for examination in the stand position. The dog should be on lead for this exercise. The Evaluator will then examine the dog, including a gentle examination of its mouth, teeth, throat, eyes, ears and feet. This examination should be more thorough than the Bronze test. Other than mild avoidance the dog should allow inspection without concern.

**Note. A table may be used for the examination of small to medium sized dogs when necessary.**

**Test 3****Care and responsibility**

This is to demonstrate that the handler has a good understanding of the responsibility required to care for their dog and the responsibility with regards to their neighbours and community.

The Evaluator should ask the handler questions around problem behaviours at home, e.g. separation anxiety, barking, chasing objects/people, illnesses, feeding regimes, allowing dogs off lead in public places, dogs and children, exercise, leaving dogs in the car, strangers approaching a car with a dog in it, etc.

Note: The handler should correctly answer at least eight (8) questions.

**Test 4****Play with dog**

This is to demonstrate that the dog will play with its handler. Play is 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 the dog should readily give them up. Play should be appropriate to the dog under evaluation. Formal retrieves will not be deemed as appropriate play.

**Test 5****Walk on a lead with distractions**

This is to demonstrate that the handler has control over the dog when distractions are present. The handler and dog should walk on lead, at normal pace, passing at least one (1) distraction at a distance of approximately three (3) metres. Two (2) turns (any direction) and two (2) halts should be included. Distractions may consist of a group of handlers and dogs, children playing, a bicycle, etc.

Excessive talking to the dog, snapping of fingers, slapping of sides and stamping of feet must be discouraged. Where cues are given, the dog should respond.

**Test 6****Road walk**

This is to demonstrate that the dog has the ability to walk on lead under control. This task should be carried out at a suitable outdoor location and an occasional tight lead will be acceptable. The handler and dog should walk along a pavement, execute a turn, and 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. At least two (2) distractions are incorporated, e.g. normal passing vehicles. Talking to the dog by the handler is encouraged but snapping of fingers, slapping of sides and stamping of feet must be discouraged. Where cues are given, the dog should respond promptly.

Note: The turns are only tests of ability to change direction. Evaluators are encouraged to assess the lay of the land and select a suitable road. This may be at a different venue.

**Test 7****Rejoin handler**

This is to demonstrate that the dog will remain steady when the handler leaves the dog, but the dog will rejoin the handler when instructed to do so. Having left the dog in a wait either in the sit, stand or down position, with the lead removed, the handler will move forward approximately ten (10) paces and, when facing their dog, recall the dog when instructed to do so. Having rejoined, the dog should stop close to the handler in any position, the lead shall be re-attached.

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

**Test 8****Stay in one place**

This is to demonstrate that the dog will stay in place while the handler moves away. The handler should place the dog, with the lead attached, in any position of their choice. Upon instruction, having quietly dropped the lead, the handler will remain in sight and move a distance of five (5) metres away for a period of two (2) minutes. Having left the dog, the handler may not give any further cues until ordered to do so by Evaluator. The handler must return to the dog at a natural walking pace. The Evaluator may choose whether the handler faces the dog or faces away.

**Test 9****Supervised isolation**

This task is to demonstrate a dog can be left alone if necessary, whilst maintaining its

training and good manners. The dog will be attached to a lead of approximately two (2) metres. It does not have to stay in position but should not continually bark, whine, howl, pace unnecessarily or show any behaviour with a mild agitation or nervousness. The handler will go out of sight for one (1) minute. The dogs should be tethered to a stationary object, e.g. tree or fence post, or handed to a person who is a stranger to the dog.

**Test 10 Vehicle or crate control**

This is to demonstrate that the handler can get the dog in and out of a vehicle or crate in a controlled manner. Without pulling, the dog should be taken on a lead towards a vehicle or crate and remain steady whilst the handler opens the vehicle or crate door. The dog should not attempt to get in until instructed to and should enter willingly. Thereafter, the door should be closed. The dog will then be instructed to exit in an orderly manner. The handler should then close the door and leave the vehicle or crate with the dog calmly under control. Crates may be used where it is not possible to access a vehicle, e.g. Expos.

Note: Only dogs that are physically able should be invited to jump into the vehicle. Where appropriate, dogs may be lifted in and out of the vehicle.

**Test 11 Food manners**

The handler should offer the dog an item of food that the dog should take without snatching. The handler is to provide the food, but the Evaluator should have alternatives on hand should the food item not be acceptable. E.g. food items may consist of dog biscuits, training treats, or similar.

**Certificates and awards**

Once all the Tests have been completed and marked “Passed” *and signed off*, the Club or organising body will issue the dog with a rosette and a numbered KUSA Canine Good Citizen Certificate.

**Fees**

A participating Club or organising body have complete discretion as to decide whether to charge fees for participation and to decide on the amount to charge.

**CGC Test Documents & Items**

The Silver level requires the following:

Item	Download from web*	Issued by KUSA to Club / organisers
Test Sheet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Information booklet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Code of Ethics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Care & Responsibility	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Certificate		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rosette		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

\* Club / organisers to inform participants who will download the documents.

The documents are available on the KUSA website by visiting this link <https://www.kusa.co.za/index.php/kusa-initiatives/canine-good-citizen-test>, or alternatively going to [www.kusa.co.za](http://www.kusa.co.za) → Responsible Ownership → Canine Good Citizen Programme

**For more information, contact the KUSA office at [applications@kusa.co.za](mailto:applications@kusa.co.za) or call 021 423 9027.**

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