

# Gold 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.

The KUSA Canine Good Citizen Test (Gold) is the highest level of Good Citizenship and builds upon the skills learned in the Silver Test. The Gold Test is a natural progression of practical dog training skills and introduces new concepts such as 'relaxed isolation', 'stop the dog' and 'send the dog to bed', tasks, which are important in everyday life situations. The Gold Test aims to equip handlers with a greater understanding of their canine companion. In order for the test to be meaningful, it must be carried out rigorously. Emphasis must be placed upon the ability of the handler to handle, care for and generally be responsible for their dog.

### **Entry Qualifications | Gold 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 (Silver) Certificate may participate in Canine Good Citizen (Gold) Tests.*** The Silver Certificate number must be recorded on the Test Sheet (Gold 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**

All the tasks *must be passed in one (1) session* before a Gold certificate is issued. A session may take place over a maximum of two (2) days. Dogs may be evaluated singly or in groups. Should a dog fail a task, it should be allowed to complete the rest of the Test. Regardless of the result, 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". Should any of the tasks be marked "Not Ready", the dog will have to complete all Tasks 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 Gold Canine Good Citizen Tests**

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

#### **Test 1**

##### **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 with regards to neighbours and community, e.g. chasing objects or people, allowing dogs off lead in public places, dogs and children, 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 2**

### **Walk free beside handler**

This is to demonstrate that the dog is able to walk free next to the handler as if walking in a park. This is not a heelwork exercise but a test of control while the dog is off lead walking next to the handler. The dog should be in near proximity to the handler. Two (2) changes of direction should take place and there should be a distraction of another handler passing with a dog on a lead. When instructed by the Evaluator the dog will be placed back on the lead to finish the task. 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 promptly.

Note: The changes of direction are right and left turns without formality.

## **Test 3**

### **Road Walk**

This is to demonstrate that the dog has the ability to walk on lead beside the handler and for the handler to determine the speed of the walk. The 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 curb where the dog should remain steady and controlled. On instruction from the Evaluator they should proceed to cross the road whilst observing the Highway Code. On reaching the other side of the road, they should turn and continue walking, making a few changes of pace from normal to slow or fast pace. The handler and dog should then return back across the road to the starting point of the task. At least two (2) distractions should be incorporated, e.g. passing vehicles, bicycles, people, wheelchairs, prams, 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 promptly.

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

## **Test 4**

### **Return to handler's side**

This is to demonstrate that the handler is able to bring the dog back under close control during a walk off lead. With the dog off lead, the dog should be left in the sit, stand or down position and upon instruction from the Evaluator, the handler will move forward not less than ten (10) paces away at which time the Evaluator will instruct the handler to recall the dog back to the walking handler's side. Both should continue together the dog under control for approximately ten (10) paces.

Note: The dog moving loosely at the handler's side, but under control, is quite acceptable and there should not be a halt to complete the task.

## **Test 5**

### **Stay in one Place**

This is to demonstrate that the dog will remain in the sit or down position on the spot while the handler moves away for two (2) minutes, whilst being both in and out of sight. Having told their dog to stay, the handler will proceed directly to the out of sight position on instruction from the Evaluator, and remain there for a period of one (1) minute. On instruction from the Evaluator, the handler will return to a position of not less than ten (10) metres away from their dogs (in sight) for the remainder of the time. Once the handler leaves the dog, no further cues will be allowed until the task is completed. The handler must return to the dog at a natural walking pace.

Note: The dogs should remain in place but may change position, i.e. lie down from the sit.

## **Test 6**

### **Supervised isolation**

This is to demonstrate that the dog is relaxed when left in isolation. During such times the dog should not become agitated, unduly restless or defensive. The handler should fasten the dog to a line of approximately two (2) metres and then to move out of sight for two (2) minutes as directed by the Evaluator. Several dogs can be evaluated at the same time, provided there is sufficient space between the dogs. It is acceptable for the dogs to move around during isolation. However, should the dog whine, howl, bark or indulge in any disruptive activities, the dog will fail this task.

Note: Dogs should be assessed for their relaxed behaviour in isolation without any prior controls having been imposed by the handler before leaving. This is not a stay exercise and

handlers may settle their dogs before leaving. This is a practical task and no enticements of food, toys or blankets may be used during this evaluation.

### Test 7

#### Send the dog to a place of safety

This is to demonstrate that the handler has control over the dog that might be required in the home or external environment. The handler will provide the dog's bed (this includes blankets, mats or article of clothing), crate or car etc. The handler should place the dog's bed/crate/car in a place determined by the Evaluator. The handler will stand approximately ten (10) paces away from the bed/crate/car. On the instruction from the Evaluator, the handler should send the dog to go to the bed/crate/car. The dog should remain there until the Evaluator is satisfied that the dog is settled. The dog does not have to lie down.

Note: The dog is not being sent to bed in disgrace. This task may be conducted indoors or outdoors. The item of bedding used should be suitable for the dog being evaluated and no enticement using toys or food should be used. The dog may accompany the handler when the bed is being placed, crate is being set up or car door/boot/tailgate is being opened. While the dog doesn't have to have its entire body on the bed, there should be enough that the dog would be comfortable had it been a raised bed.

### Test 8

#### Stop the dog

This is to demonstrate that the handler has the ability to stop the dog at a distance in an emergency situation. With the dog off lead, at a distance of not less than fifteen (15) metres away from the handler, the handler will recall the dog and stop it upon instruction by the Evaluator. The dog may be stopped in any position.

Note: The dog is expected to respond immediately but if moving at speed, will be allowed not more than two (2) body lengths to come to a stop. The position the dog stops in is at the handler's discretion. The task is completed once the dog comes to a halt.

### Test 9

#### Food manners

This is to demonstrate that the dog can be fed in an orderly manner and have its food bowl taken away while eating. The handler will offer food to the dog in a container (e.g. bowl, plate etc.). The dog must wait three (3) to five (5) seconds for permission to eat. After a further three (3) to five (5) seconds, the bowl should be taken away from the dog by the handler.

Note: The dog should not eat until given permission, however, if the dog attempts to do so, it is acceptable for the handler to restrain the dog by using voice cues only.

### 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 Gold 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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