

Report to Exco regarding Canine Good Citizen

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1. Background:

At the Federal Council (FEDCO) meeting of June 2020, it was noted that the CGC test was in need of revision (section 51.1). I offered to assist Clr Carol Immelman with this task and was duly appointed by Exco to carry out a revision (Item 9.9, Exco meeting 21 July 2020).

On 24 August 2020, I sent out an open letter, via email, to all participants, handlers, evaluators, clubs and other parties interested in Canine Good Citizen (CGC). The letter called for comments relating to:

1. Challenges faced by clubs / organizing bodies linked to the administration / paperwork / obtaining packs etc.;
2. Requirements of individual tests / exercises within the levels;
3. The requirements for one to become an evaluator;
4. Ability of clubs to access the list of evaluators;
5. Ability of individuals wishing to participate in the tests to access the relevant information;
6. Any other point(s) you think need addressing.

Comments were to be submitted by 9 October 2020. The letter was forwarded to a multitude of clubs via the provincial council mailing lists and via clubs to their handlers.

On 6 October I held a Skype meeting with Kyle Farmer of KUSA to better understand the challenges facing KUSA staff in terms of administration and the possibilities that exist to reduce the workload on the staff.

Table 1 below outlines issues raised, comments and suggestions provided and potential solutions. The comments are further broken down into those that can be achieved in the short term and those that require more thought and/or consultation prior to making a decision.

Comments were received from 13 individuals and three clubs and are pasted below largely verbatim - minor adjustments have been made to reduce the overall length of the document.

Table 2 provides a comparison of the Canine Good Citizen (or similar name) tests offered in other countries and/or other organisations within South Africa.

2. Use of CGC for testing dogs with Temporary Exclusion Orders (TEOs)

Although not directly relevant to the revision of CGC, the following comments were received with regards to the use of CGC for the evaluation of TEO dogs:

- I have my doubts as to whether the CGC test environment would in any way replicate the conditions at the time of the incident - especially at Bronze level.
- Canine Good Citizen Scheme is not a temperament test but a scheme to promote and encourage responsible dog ownership, and therefore we feel strongly that it is not the vehicle to be used for the rehabilitation of dogs with TEO's etc. If however we are forced to use it for this purpose then:

The Evaluators and test organizing bodies MUST be informed of all the details well in advance, and they must have the right to decline testing such a dog if they wish to.

- CGC has no place in the evaluation of a TEO dog.
- I have no idea as to who promoted CGC as a vehicle for assessing dogs with Temporary Exclusion Orders but from many years of training and working with dogs covering a wide range of disciplines together with my UK Canine Behaviour Modification qualification, it has no place whatsoever in being used for this purpose.
- It happens from time to time that a dog is granted a temporary exclusion order in a breed class and is required to undergo a CGC test (mostly because of aggression in the ring and/or biting a judge). In our opinion the CGC test is not a test for soundness in a breed ring but reflects a dog's ability as a companion / pet in a home environment. We suggest dogs granted TEO's should be assessed by an approved Animal behaviourist and not be subjected to the CGC test.

3. Next steps

Table 1 outlines a list of actions that can be taken in the short- or longer-term. it is recommended that the following actions are undertaken:

- a) Items marked for immediate attention are addressed. This includes making information available on the website so as to reduce the workload of KUSA staff.
- b) 'Legal' matters such as trademarks and a disclaimer are referred to the relevant parties to address.
- c) A task team be formed to look into streamlining the tests and developing a 'guideline' document to clearly outline the criteria of the tests, ensuring progression from level to level. This includes the consideration of a 'puppy' class as offered by the UK, USA and Zimbabwe Kennel Clubs.
- d) A task team (possible the same as the above) be formed to discuss the development of a training course for evaluators (noting that many issues will be addressed through step c) and to consider enabling non-judges to become evaluators.

Table 1: Feedback received and the way forward

Element of CGC	Feedback received	Way forward	Timeframe
Administration			
General paperwork & admin	<p>Packs need to be ordered in advance but entries are taking on the day leading to a mismatch between entries and packs available.</p> <p>Packs are easily available and KUSA responds promptly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IMO are a waste of paper and plastic and seldom get distributed to the testees in my experience • The booklets are available electronically – could they not just be emailed to the organiser for distribution? • I once ordered packs and had them delivered: the delivery costs exceeded the test pack costs. <p>The system to order the packages from KUSA is very time intensive (especially for KUSA staff), would it not be easier to provide the forms for download on the KUSA website and only order the rosettes and certificates from KUSA.</p> <p>The paperwork is laborious and time consuming ---- can this be streamlined ?</p> <p>Being in Durban getting packs is more complicated but I guess works. Given courier costs, this of course makes it more expensive for the outlying towns. The packs are often not available for delivery. I was unexpectedly in Cape Town and wanted packs and was told they weren't ready. Anyway in the end KUSA scrambled together the packs and they were very helpful after being initially reluctant to help. So it might be helpful that there are always packs in stock. For the times that packs were couriered things were okay if not a tedious task.</p> <p>Having the booklet with the entry forms and rosette is a bit stupid. Entry forms and instruction booklets should be</p>	<p>Ensure all application forms, guidelines and 'about' information is available on the internet.</p> <p>Clubs can ask for entries in advance to control the number of participants.</p> <p>KUSA to not compile packs but rather send requestion organisations certificates and rosettes.</p> <p>Provincial councils could keep stock of certificates and rosettes to reduce postage costs.</p>	<p>Commence as soon as possible</p> <p>Immediate</p> <p>Immediate</p> <p>Further discussion</p>

	<p>separate and the rosettes supplied separately as are the certificates. It makes more work for the club having to separate the rosettes and if the booklets and entry form are distributed on the day then what's the point of an instruction booklet? We attempt to sell entries before an evaluation, not always successfully. So again rosettes have to be separated from the packs which is another nuisance step.</p> <p>It would be a good idea to reduce the amount of paperwork in some way. Submission of paperwork to KUSA promptly: This is a challenge to some clubs/organizations, especially since due to the unreliable nature of the postal service, the preferred method is to scan the documents and send them electronically. We do feel however that KUSA should apply the same protocol used for Show Returns and insist on the prompt submission of all CGC applicable paperwork. We have experienced cases of the complete failure to submit such paperwork with dire consequences.</p> <p>Arranging a CGC test is sometimes difficult as one never know how many entries will be received and in which of the 3 levels.</p> <p>Returning the completed forms to KUSA could be a bit of a challenge as the duplicate copies need to be scanned and e-mailed. Scanning facilities are not readily available.</p>		
KUSA record keeping	KUSA could not provide proof of a dog having passed CGC.	KUSA to determine a way to keep record of dogs having passed the tests. The new software may assist with this.	Further discussion within KUSA
Quality of packs	<p>Costs have escalated substantially and the quality of the certificates seems to have decreased.</p> <p>Rosettes need to be branded.</p>	<p>A full costing to be calculated - include certificates, rosettes, capturing of information etc.</p> <p>Cheaper suppliers of rosettes (or medals) to be sought with rebranding.</p>	KUSA to investigate
Access to a list of evaluators	These lists are hard to access.	Information to be added to website	Immediate

	<p>It would be helpful if there was a list on the KUSA website of CGC Evaluators, selectable by Province.</p> <p>If one knows how to negotiate the KUSA website, it is possible to obtain a list of CGC judges under the “KUSA Judge search” function, but there is no separate or specific list with only CGC judges. It is also not clear where the CGC program should fall – under “breed” or “Working Disciplines”.</p>		
Accessing information	<p>The KUSA website is not very user friendly and generally people find accessing this information difficult. I have details on my own site and share the information with my clients prior to tests.</p> <p>There should be a link to the “All you should know” on each CGC page as one has to scrabble around to find information.</p> <p>Firstly, KUSA should update what it has on the website.</p> <p>We feel that clubs/organisations must give the handlers the information prior to the test and wherever possible have the required paperwork completed before the testing day.</p> <p>Information is accessible on the KUSA website, however, there are various documents such as the “Everything you need to know” page that does not actually have any information apart from the representative in each region and very little info on exactly what CGC is and what each test consist of. For this information, you must access the specific level. Care and responsibility document – no link to access this information.</p> <p>The description and wording of the exercises is not clear. So, I, ask for a rewrite--- so that trainers and clients are clear as to what is required and how each exercise will be tested.</p>	<p>Streamline the website and make the entry forms and ‘Care’ booklets available online.</p> <p>Handlers should come to testing days with all the required documentation already completed.</p> <p>Update the pages on the website. Consider updating the ‘all you need to know’ page along the lines of the UK document.</p>	<p>Process to update information to be decided upon asap and a timetable developed for delivery of information</p>
Clubs charging fees in excess of the KUSA charge	<p>This should not be encouraged and/or the proceeds should be given to a charity as per WODAC.</p>	<p>Hosting organisations need to look after their evaluators and helpers which often places a financial burden</p>	<p>No action needed</p>

		on clubs. The costs charged are at the discretion of clubs/organisations offering the tests.	
Evaluators & assistants			
Evaluation of CGC - normal	<p>The interpretation of the dogs actions and reactions must be balanced and must not be seen in the context of formal obedience but on the other hand the behaviour seen must not be taken lightly.</p> <p>The basis on which a judge is approved needs to be considered and then applied.</p> <p>These are discrepancies between the requirements of evaluators.</p> <p>I've done numerous tests Dobermann Club and they acquire the packs themselves. The last couple of tests I've done for them I've been required to complete a KUSA judging contract. Dog schools that aren't KUSA affiliated are not in a position to request KUSA judging contracts. It's not clear to me if KUSA no longer wants to allow these schools to offer CGC tests or not. The KUSA website does refer to 'any other approved organisation' and 'an organising body', but it's not clear what either of those mean, or how you go about becoming approved.</p> <p>I believe that evaluators should undergo training in the CGC requirements. Each CGC exercise includes a 'the purpose of this test' clause which I suspect most evaluators forget, assuming they have ever had the need to read it. Currently evaluators span an enormous spectrum.</p> <p>One evaluator should sign off the whole test to ensure similar requirements and testing conditions.</p> <p>Over the 18 years that I have been involved , I have often been thrown by the interpretation variations of the different evaluators.</p>	A CGC judge's qualification be brought in similar to any working discipline.	<p>Task team appointed to develop evaluators course - immediate.</p> <p>Task team to set dates for delivery.</p>

	<p>Lastly , I do battle to find an evaluator ---- especially as their way of evaluating varies sooooo much.</p> <p>There was no qualification to become a CGC judge. Any existing KUSA judge, as long as approved at the Provincial Council, can judge CGC.</p>		
Becoming an evaluator	<p><i>I received several requests for people wishing to become CGC evaluators but who do not want to judge any other discipline and/or breed.</i></p> <p>Those with recognised qualifications as behaviour practitioners and positive reinforcement-based trainers should be able to sit for an exam to become CGC evaluators without having to be breed judges or obedience judges.</p> <p>Most judges have absolutely no qualifications in the field of dog behaviour and training and very often their advice to entrants is misguided and seriously out of date.</p> <p>I have a client who has shown her dogs for 20 years and has taken dogs from BRONZE, to SILVER, to GOLD and is interested to become an evaluator for CGC. She cannot get help from KUSA all are very dismissive and not interested to help her.</p> <p>I feel the emphasis on “OBEDIENCE” judging before you can become a CGC judge is not necessary ---- you should have rather done all three disciplines yourself and even assisted in the training of new handlers and their dogs.</p> <p>We would like to recommend that the Evaluators must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a judge in any of the working disciplines, • Attend at least 3 Canine Good Citizen tests either as a participant or observer, • Be approved by their Provincial Council. 	Above task team to look at criteria for non-judges to become evaluators.	<p>Further discussion</p> <p>Clarification needed on whether Schedule 3 (or other) is needed.</p>
Dogs and people being used as ‘decoys’	Dogs must be of suitable temperament	The people concerned must understand what is expected of them	Include in ‘guidelines’.

		and the dogs that are to be used must be vetted and tested by the examiner as to their suitability before commencing the test.	
Eligibility of dogs			
Microchipping of dogs	<p>FEDCO ruled that dogs must be microchipped. There is no national or provincial law requiring microchipping.</p> <p>Is a microchip obligatory for each dog taking the CGC Test?</p> <p>I don't see the microchipping requirement mentioned but we were told that it is a requirement</p>	<p>The requirement for microchipping to be added to the website / CGC documentation asap.</p> <p>As there is no other way to track unregistered dogs, microchips are needed.</p> <p>Include on website the fact that all Provincial Councils have scanners which can be hired/loaned.</p>	Immediate
Dog licenses	<p>Proposal to take out the Dog licenses, as this has no relevance to us in Namibia in terms of dog club or for CGC in general.</p> <p>For a start one of the requirements is a dog licence. We don't have that in KZN. The requirement that dogs have to be microchipped is ridiculous. We are trying to encourage people to enter, not put obstacles in their way as KUSA is similarly doing for people to enter Obedience. Of course microchipping is important and should be encouraged but that should not be a requirement for CGC entry. And if clubs have to scan then that is another big cost and CGC starts becoming more trouble than it's worth. The more complicated that KUSA and also the Provincial Council in KZN make these tests, the less likelihood that clubs will want to hold CGC tests and the less likely we are going to be able to persuade people to enter. CGC is an excellent test programme. Make it easy for people to enter not the other way around which I believe is happening.</p>	<p>Remove need for dog licenses.</p> <p>Handlers should be aware of the need for licencing dogs in their area. This could be included in the Care & Responsibility booklet.</p>	<p>Immediate</p> <p>To be incorporated into the 'guideline' and updating of the booklets.</p>
Vaccination of dogs	Why is this a requirement given that some vaccinations e.g. rabies, is valid for 3 years? Dogs in possession of titre tests or letters from the vet should be allowed to take part.	Vaccination rules and preferences vary, and it should not end in a discussion if or why not the dog has been	Further discussion

	<p>It is questionable if the vaccination booklet should be presented. A recommendation for vaccination should be included but not making a vaccination compulsory for the test.</p> <p>Some dogs are vaccinated by their owners (especially those on farms) and the booklets are therefore not signed by a vet.</p>	vaccinated. A reference to the vet for any questions about vaccination and other treatments would be recommended.	
Age of dogs	<p>A minimum age restriction should be placed on dogs on the entry to the Bronze class as many people will see this qualification as 'a licence' that permits activities that could be seen as being irresponsible. The dogs should have reached maturity before being allowed to participate and an age of 12 months should be seen as being the minimum.</p> <p>We further recommend that there should be a minimum age of 12 months for candidate dogs. It has been our experience that in many cases dogs that were tested at an early age (9 months or so), have shown a very different (often less desirable) temperament later when undertaking the Silver/Gold tests at a more mature age. In several breeds the Bitches mature earlier than the Dogs, and we believe this should be taken into account.</p>	<p>If a puppy test is not introduced (see next item) then a minimum age of 9 months for Bronze should be set and a minimum age of 18 months for Gold introduced. If a puppy test is included, these ages could be revised.</p> <p>Take note of requirements for dogs such as therapy dogs.</p>	Immediate but further discussion needed
Should a puppy test be introduced	<p>Countries such as the UK and Zimbabwe offer a 'puppy' test. This should be considered here.</p> <p>It would be "nice to have" a CGC puppy level which does not require a formal test, but clubs can award this after a puppy has completed a puppy class programme. This "assessment" could be based on what is currently in the AKC KC S.T.A.R. programme. We foresee an "official" award in this level should encourage dog owners to continue training their dogs to a level where they can subsequently access the bronze, silver and gold CGC levels.</p>	Given that dogs go through various fear stages and do not mature before at least a year of age, a puppy class would be valuable contribution to the CGC scheme.	Further discussion
Entering all 3 levels on one day	Dogs should not be able to do all three tests on the same day.	Introduce a statement saying that dogs may only be tested at one level at a time.	Immediate

	The ability to enter more than one test in a day lends weight to the CGC scheme being considered too easy. This is also true of young dogs undertaking testing.	None of the Working Disciplines allow a dog to enter more than one test on a day. Not allowing this will also ensure the high standard of the tests.	
Linkages to other qualifications			
Supreme Champion	Regarding the CGC Bronze test to gain Supreme Champion status – you cannot equate the lowest CGC test with the highest breed qualification – the Gold test if anything should be more in line.	Discuss matter with breed representatives	Further discussion
Therapy dogs	It appears that some therapy groups use CGC as a requirement for dogs to participate in their programmes.	Ensure age criteria align with the needs of therapy programmes.	Further consultation
Domestic classes	I use the KUSA CGC exercises as the basis for the Basic Home Obedience courses I offer.	Ensure CGC caters to a broad spectrum of requirements and is a comprehensive test	Link to streamlining of levels
General items			
Dogs being able to redo elements of CGC	<p>This presents challenges when the handler takes the certificate, rosette and pack to do the test with a different club/evaluator.</p> <p>Retesting dogs (Bronze and Silver levels): Administrative complications can arise when a dog has been marked 'not ready' for a certain test(s) in either Bronze or Silver and subsequently goes on to another Evaluator for the reassessment. In many cases the paperwork (evaluation sheet) and the rosette and certificate (to be issued on completion of all the tests) do not accompany the handler and dog, resulting in difficulties upon completion and requests for the handler to pay an additional fee in order to receive the rosette and certificate if the originals cannot be found. In our view this is an unfair practice and must be avoided.</p>	It may not be possible for the same evaluator to conduct the retesting.	Further discussion
Testing days	Pet dog schools is that they want the tests done on their premises at a time that works easily for them, and offering alternatives test dates at KUSA shows just doesn't work.	This is currently allowed	No further action

Discrepancies in wording	<p>According to the current paperwork, “Emphasis must be placed on the ability of the owner to handle, care for and generally be responsible for the dog.” I interpret that as CGC being more of a Life Skills evaluation than and obedience test.</p> <p>The “All you need to know” page states: <i>The KUSA Canine Good Citizen Test is a programme that is designed to reward dogs who have good manners at home and in the community and it encourages and stresses the importance of responsible dog ownership by the owners. Any dog, pure bred, crossbred or of mixed breeding may take part provided it has had its required vaccinations.</i></p> <p>Which seems to agree with what is on the test pages, it’s all about Life Skills (my words). And then we get this: <i>The KUSA Canine Good Citizen Test is a three part programme comprising of a Bronze, Silver and Gold Level. These tests are not competitive and lay down the foundation for KUSA progression to disciplines such as Obedience, Agility, Dog Jumping etc. Successful participants will receive a KUSA Certificate and Rosette.</i></p> <p>So which is it? General care and responsibility or foundation training for competition? They appeal to very different audiences.</p> <p>The “All you need to know” page ends with: <i>We urge owners to make the effort to train their dogs as they will experience the benefits of their dogs having good manners, responding well to household routines and they will be a joy to live with.</i></p> <p>Which takes us back to encouraging pet owners to train their dogs.</p>	Refine wording to accurately reflect the purpose of CGC	Incorporate in the revision of documentation
Include a test around willingness to go into/settle in a crate	We should include crate training which I know is done overseas. To me any handler taking the dog to an event with dogs and people present should crate train their dogs.	The majority of dogs at shows or in public environments such as WODAC are required to be crated. Pet dogs may also be required to be created for travel purposes. Dogs at veterinary facilities may also require crating.	Further discussion

Number of dogs taking part	<p>We recommend that there be a limit of 10 dogs per Evaluator at any CGC event in order to give the Evaluator adequate time to test the dogs without prolonging the overall event time unduly. Too many dogs per Evaluator can lead to handlers waiting and 'hanging around' which can lead to a frustrating and un-enjoyable day.</p> <p>We would like to recommend that there is a minimum of 5 candidate dogs and handlers in the Bronze test to adequately test the dog's temperament and degree of socialisation. Since socialization is primarily tested at the Bronze level we believe that Evaluators should give great attention and focus to this aspect, and ensure that, while taking sensible precautions, the dogs and handlers are encouraged to mingle closely together when appropriate so that the dog's actions/reactions can be observed.</p>	A minimum number will ensure sufficient distractions and dogs on hand for meet & greet exercises.	Further discussion to set minimum numbers
Disclaimers	A disclaimer protecting the Evaluators and organizers from any culpability arising from the actions of any dog or dog/handler combination that has previously passed the CGC test at any level, needs to be drawn up and included in the relevant paperwork to be signed by the participant.	EXCO to look into	Further discussion
Validity of the award	Since the CGC scheme evaluates the attributes of the handler and dog combination, we believe that should a CGC awarded dog be acquired by a new handler, all previously awarded CGC qualifications must be voided pending the re-evaluation of the new handler and dog combination.	The award is issued against the dogs name so while this has merit, it is likely impractical to address	Further discussion
Trademark	We note Canine Good Citizen is trademarked in the USA – was KUSA granted permission to use the same name?	Clarity to be sought but this is unlikely to be a problem given that the name is used in other countries.	Immediate
Individual tests / levels			
Flow from Bronze to Silver to Gold	The flow is 'illogical' with Silver, especially, being considered too easy.	Provide clarity of requirements though a document such as A Guideline to Tests	Further consultation
CGC Bronze - general	Its nice that the bronze is so easy, this gives handlers the confidence in their dog and motivates them to continue with dog training. It also helps to identify possible difficulties early to address them with training.		No action needed

Use of treats	No treats: as soon as our classes are told that they are not allowed to have treats on them during the test, they start stressing and thinking of withdrawing from the test. Maybe food on the handler should be allowed, but no food treats (especially luring) during the test should be allowed.	Provide clarity of requirements though a document such as A Guideline to Tests	Address during document revision
Standard of tests	Some of the tests are a bit “basic” for anyone already training a dog or where a dog training facility runs the CGC test i.e. putting on a collar and lead.	Provide clarity of requirements though a document such as A Guideline to Tests	Address during document revision
CGC Bronze 1 - Accepting a stranger	None		None
CGC Bronze 2 - collar	<p>Taking the collar on and off a dog could be dangerous if the dog bolts. Evaluators should rather check that the collar is correctly fitted, of suitable material and appropriate for the breed/breed-type.</p> <p>Test 2: what exactly is requested? The description only says what kind of collar and lead is acceptable but not what the handler should do. We would recommend to “put the collar on the dog, attach the lead to the collar. The dog should accept it easily without showing fear or aggression”.</p> <p>Must collars and harnesses be removed for the evaluator and refitted ??</p> <p>Equipment: We would like to recommend that Halti’s and Harnesses be permitted for the Bronze and Silver tests in addition to collars.</p>	<p>Revisit the requirement for this test.</p> <p>Consider including harnesses and/or haltis. (Note the latter is being considered inappropriate by many organisations/individuals overseas given the pressure on the dogs nose which is highly sensitive).</p>	Further discussion
CGC Bronze 3 - Present for examination	<p>Dogs are subject to quite invasive handling. While the intention is understandable, some dogs, especially rescue dogs, may battle with this exercise. Evaluators are not taught how to approach a dog correctly. Dogs should just be comfortable around people and not necessarily being handled.</p> <p>Test 3: Examination of the dog: especially for Bronze dogs, this test should be done extremely carefully, without the evaluator opening the dogs mouth fully to see its tonsils/food that he ate that morning! It should be done</p>	Revisit the criteria for this test in line with the similar tests in Silver and Gold.	Further discussion

	<p>calm and sensitively, so that the dog isn't being frightened right from the start.</p> <p>In Bronze - ask the handler to lift their dogs foot and check it the way one would for thorns.</p> <p>Some exercises are simulated e.g. present dog on lead for examination. This creates a false outcome as a dog may react differently based on different circumstances – if it is in a relaxed atmosphere that the dog is used to e.g. a dog training facility, the changes that a dog will fail this test is less likely than in a real stressful situation such as at a vet or groomer.</p>		
CGC Bronze 4 - grooming	<p>Rather than have a stranger groom your dog, the handler should bring their own brush and brush the dog, especially the feathers on the back legs. This will show the handler a) knows how to brush their dog and b) has suitable grooming equipment.</p> <p>With Covid 19, is it preferable that each handler examine and groom their own dog ?</p>	Rather than have the evaluator brush the dog, ask the handler to brush the dog.	Immediate
CGC Bronze 5 - Praise/presentation	Test 5 & 6 ----not well described --- varied interpretations by every judge ...???	Address when providing clarity for tests	Further discussion
CGC Bronze 6 - Release from lead, play, recall, attach lead	<p>Test 5 & 6 ----not well described --- varied interpretations by every judge ...???</p> <p>Recall --- some judges hold the dog ---- handler moves away and calls . Some want a Sit and handler moves away and recalls ..?</p> <p>Play --- some judges insist on a retrieve and that the toy must be thrown ---- some want a tug game ???</p>	Address when providing clarity for tests	Further discussion
CGC Bronze 7 - Walk on lead	<p>Here often evaluators look for "obedience" type of heelwork.</p> <p>The dog must be on the left of the handler' – in fact this section resembles competition obedience and not</p>		

	<p>determining the social acceptance and behaviour of the dog.</p> <p>We would propose to take out the word “the dog must walk on the left side of the handler”. Its not an obedience test, so walking on either side should be ok, as long as the dog follows the lead of the handler.</p>		
CGC Bronze 8 - Gate	Clarification is needed on this. Does the dog need to sit and wait while the handler opens the gate and then calls him through? Or must the dog just wait patiently (either standing or sitting) and not trying to sneak through the door before the handler? I would recommend the second way as this is already quite difficult for beginner dogs and a particularly useful thing to teach the dog.	Address when providing clarity for tests	Further discussion
CGC Bronze 9 - Walk on lead passing people and dogs	Dogs must be of suitable temperament	The people concerned must understand what is expected of them and the dogs that are to be used must be vetted and tested by the examiner as to their suitability before commencing the test.	Address in updating documentation
CGC Bronze 10 - Reaction to another dog	See Bronze Test 9	Address when providing clarity for tests	Further discussion
CGC Bronze 11 - Lie down and stay	<p>Equivalent test is UK Gold.</p> <p>Lie down and stay to command could prove the same point: <i>“This Test is to demonstrate that the dog has some training and will respond to the handler’s commands.”</i> if the dog could stay in either a sit or a down. What is most important? The down, the stay or the response to the command?</p> <p>Test 11---here a lot of variations to the “lie down and stay exercise”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must this be done in a group simultaneously? • Are hand signals and voice commands allowed? 	Revisit the need for and criteria for this test, especially when streamlining to Silver and Gold	Further discussion

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is a “down time” required ---- had 30secs even 1 minute required by some evaluators ? • As some of the small Terrier breeds battle to do the “down stay “—can the option of a “Sit stay “ be allowed ?? • Is another chance to retry offered ??? <p>I’d rather see this broken into two exercises. A stay (in sit or down - handlers choice) and a down on command (luring with hands (not food)) can be used. This is a submissive position for a dog and needs to be treated sensitively.</p>		
CGC Bronze 12 - Reaction to distractions	None.		None
CGC Bronze 13 - Supervised Isolation	Some evaluators require the dogs to be tethered in a group - and the handlers move some distance away?? Or the evaluator holds the dogs lead and the handler walks out of sight??	Provide clarity on criteria	Address in updating documentation
CGC Silver - General	<p>While the Silver and Gold level tests focus largely on the dog’s trainability and manners, together with the handler’s responsibilities, we still believe that there should be a minimum of 5 candidate dogs present to make the tests worthwhile.</p> <p>Specially for silver and gold, maybe it should be written into the rules, that this is not an obedience style test/evaluation and should be not seen as such? An “easy going” approach while evaluating should be envisaged, as we want to encourage people to stay at the club and continue with dog training.</p>	See previous discussion around minimum numbers	Further discussion
CGC Silver 1 - Play with dog	None		None
CGC Silver 2 - Road work	We dread the road work as our South African drivers have no regard for pedestrians and definitely not for a dog crossing the road. Even walking in the suburb is something I would not risk as our neighbours are quite oblivious to the fact that their dogs are a menace to pedestrians and dogs	Revisit the need for this noting that many domestic dogs do walk in the street and parks.	Further discussion

	on lead and are themselves not immune to dog fights and dog theft.		
CGC Silver 3 - Rejoin handler	None		None
CGC Silver 4 - Stay in one place	In respect of tests in Silver, what in Test 4 is a Tay (sic) test?	Amend spelling on website.	Immediate
CGC Silver 5 - Vehicle control	Unlike the UK, which this test is based on, all dogs travel in cars in South Africa. The dog more than likely got to the testing grounds in a car. Going into a crate would be a more useful test. Remove the part of the running engine.	Revisit the need for this test and its criteria. Is a crate more suitable?	Further discussion
CGC Silver 6 - Come away from distractions	"Come away from distractions"----- here had some muddle it with Test 3 and make handlers call the dog from 10 m.	Provide clarity on criteria	Address in updating documentation
CGC Silver 7 - Controlled greeting	None		None
CGC Silver 8 - Food manners	True food refusal is not a wise thing to teach a dog. What should be taught is 'food manners'. E.g. in Silver a dog should take food gently without snatching. In Gold they should wait for permission to take the food. This is more reflective of the domestic situation, especially one where children are involved. Clarify of how the human food is presented: on a table/plate or does the person hold food in the hand? Or is it "unattended" and the dog should still ignore it? Clarify the type of food to be used.	Provide clarity on criteria	Address in updating documentation
CGC Silver 9 - Examination of dog	In Silver what is the point of repeating the Evaluation of the Dog which is a repeat of the same test in Bronze.	See Bronze	Further discussion
CGC Silver 10 - Care & Responsibility	These are out of date - especially: <i>1.5 The pack. All dogs need to feel part of the pack.</i> <i>1.6 Leadership. A dog knows there will be leaders within the pack. Leaders should not include the dog. Pack theory has no place in modern dog training and these sorts of statements should be removed - they are misleading to the</i>	Revise documentation	Further discussion

	<p><i>average dog owner and undo everything that modern, science-based training teaches.</i></p> <p>I would recommend adding some basic dog care information in the Bronze test. Not as a questionnaire, as many people panic the moment, they hear they have to pass a theory test. But perhaps in the preparation papers, these important infos about what dogs need, should be mentioned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silver 3.8 and 3.13 could be merged. • Silver 3.14 – take out the restaurant as some restaurants allow dogs (or write it accordingly). I would propose to just keep the one about food shops. • Silver 3.14 – take out the restaurant as some restaurants allow dogs (or write it accordingly). I would propose to just keep the one about food shops. • 8.2. the word “with” is missing: “When travelling in a vehicle with a dog” • 8.2.2 I would reword it to “the dog should not be allowed to move around in the vehicle” to give the owner the responsibility instead of the dog • 8.3 Must say “When entering and exiting”. • Gold: 5.6 Again there are restaurants that allow dogs, perhaps rephrase it to first check if dogs are allowed before entering a restaurant or bar / also depending on the character, behaviour and size of the dog. <p>In General: I would add that dog owners should look for professional help with behaviour issues of their dogs and not wait until its too late because a (dangerous) situation happened or the behaviour becomes impossible or extremely difficult to change again.</p>		
CGC Gold - General	While the Silver and Gold level tests focus largely on the dog’s trainability and manners, together with the handler’s responsibilities, we still believe that there should be a minimum of 5 candidate dogs present to make the tests worthwhile.	See Silver	Further discussion

CGC Gold 1 - Road walk	See comment in Silver		Further discussion
CGC Gold 2 - Return to handlers side	I would love to see another Test "Play with distraction", so the handler must show that he is able to motivate his dog to play with him even if another dog or kids or agitated people are close by. Building on the play test from Silver but with a distraction.	Consider including this	Further discussion
CGC Gold 3 - Walk free beside handler	See comment in Silver General - not an Obedience test.	Provide clarity on criteria	Address in updating documentation
CGC Gold 4 - Stay in one place	None		None
CGC Gold 5 - Send to bed	This is not a logical test in a public environment. It should be adjusted to 'send to a place of safety' e.g. a crate or into a car. Perhaps make the distance to the bed a bit shorter? 10 paces are quite far.	Consider revising test	Further discussion
CGC Gold 6 - Stop the dog	None		None
CGC Gold 7 - Relaxed isolation	None		None
CGC Gold 8 - Food manners	See comments in Silver		Further discussion
CGC Gold 9 - Examination of dog	See comments in Silver		Further discussion
CGC Gold 10 - Care and Responsibility	See comments in Silver		Further discussion

Table 2: Comparison of CGC tests around the world

Organisation	Puppy	Bronze	Silver	Gold
KUSA	None.	1 – Accepting a stranger 2 – Putting on a collar and lead 3 – Present for examination on a lead 4 – Groom 5 – Praise/presentation 6 – Release from lead, play with or without toy, recall and attach lead 7 – Walk on lead without distraction (walking on a loose lead) 8 – Walk on lead, passing through a door or gate 9 – Walk on a lead passing people and dogs 10 – Reaction to another dog 11 – Lie down and stay to command 12 – Reaction to distractions 13 – Supervised isolation	1 – Play with dog 2 – Road work 3 – Re-join handler 4 – Stay in one place 5 – Vehicle control 6 – Come away from distractions 7 – Controlled greeting 8 – Food manners 9 – Examination of the dog 10 – Care and responsibility	1 – Road walk 2 – Return to handler's side 3 – Walk free beside handler 4 – Stay in one place 5 – Send the dog to bed 6 – Stop the dog 7 – Relaxed isolation 8 – Food manners 9 – Examination of the dog 10 – Care and responsibility
WODAC (The gold test provided did not have names for each test - these are my interpretations of likely names)			1 – Play with the dog 2 – Road walk 3 – Rejoin handler 4 – Stay in one place 5 – Control 6 – Come away from distractions 7 – Controlled greeting 8 – Food manners. 9 – Examination of the dog	1 – Walk with a dog on lead as instructed by the examiner 2 – Recall to heel and heel for 10 paces 3 – Heel off lead 4 – Down stay out of sight 5 – Send to handlers article (20 m) and down dog 6 – Recall away from a distraction - dog to join in heel position and walk at heel Alternative to 5 and 6 above: 5a. The dog will be taken from the owner by a stranger. The owner will then recall the dog

				<p>and at a point indicated by the judge, the handler will down the dog.</p> <p>7 – Stay (any position) for 5 minutes (out of sight)</p> <p>8 – Sit, stand, down dog in heel position</p> <p>9 – Food manners - dog to wait at least 5 sec before taking food on command</p> <p>10 – Examination of dog</p>
UK - The Kennel Club	<p>1 – Responsibility and care</p> <p>2 – Cleanliness and identification</p> <p>3 – Attentive response to name</p> <p>4 – Play with the puppy</p> <p>5 – Socialisation</p> <p>6 – Handling and inspection to maintain health</p> <p>7 – Puppy recall</p> <p>8 – Basic puppy positions</p> <p>9 – Walking in a controlled manner</p> <p>10 – Stay for approximately ten seconds</p> <p>11 – Take article away from the puppy</p> <p>12 – Food manners</p>	<p>1 – Cleanliness and identification</p> <p>2 – Collar, lead and equipment</p> <p>3 – Walk on lead</p> <p>4 – Control at door/gate</p> <p>5 – Controlled walk amongst people and dogs</p> <p>6 – Stay on lead for one minute</p> <p>7 – Grooming</p> <p>8 – Examination of the dog</p> <p>9 – Return to handler</p> <p>10 – Responsibility and care</p>	<p>1 – Play with the dog</p> <p>2 – Road walk</p> <p>3 – Re-join handler</p> <p>4 – Stay in one place for 2 minutes</p> <p>5 – Vehicle control</p> <p>6 – Come away from distractions</p> <p>7 – Controlled greeting</p> <p>8 – Food manners</p> <p>9 – Examination of the dog</p> <p>10 – Responsibility and care</p>	<p>1 - Road walk</p> <p>2 - Return to handler's side</p> <p>3 - Walk free beside handler</p> <p>4 - Stay down in one place</p> <p>6 - Stop the dog</p> <p>7 - Relaxed isolation</p> <p>8 - Food manners</p> <p>9 - Examination of the dog</p> <p>10 - Responsibility and care</p>
<p>American Kennel Club</p> <p>Also offers the following: CGC-Ready is how the Canine Good Citizen (CGC) program is implemented in</p>	<p>1 – Shows proof puppy is in the care of a vet (exam and vaccines)</p> <p>2 – Puppy appears healthy and active for breed</p> <p>3 – Owner describes exercise plan</p> <p>4 – Attend at least 6 classes</p>	<p>1 – Accepting a friendly stranger</p> <p>2 – Sitting politely for petting</p> <p>3 – Appearance and grooming</p> <p>4 – Out for a walk (walking on a loose lead)</p> <p>5 – Walking through a crowd</p> <p>6 – Sit and down on command and Staying in place</p>	None	None

settings where staff or volunteer trainers train dogs either 1) for their existing owners, or 2) or to prepare them for adoption. (Shelters, Rescues, Prisons, Service dogs etc.)	<p>5 – Owner brings bags to class for clean-up</p> <p>6 – Owner has obtained some form of ID for puppy</p> <p>7 – Free of aggression toward people</p> <p>8 – Free of aggression toward other puppies</p> <p>9 – Tolerates collar, harness, etc.</p> <p>10 – Owner can hug or hold any puppy in the class</p> <p>11 – Puppy allows owner to take away a treat or toy</p> <p>Pre-CGC Behaviours:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows petting • Grooming • Walking on a Leash • Sit • Down • Stay • Come • Reactions to Distractions • Stay with Another Person on Leash 	<p>7 – Coming when called</p> <p>8 – Reaction to another dog</p> <p>9 – Reaction to distraction</p> <p>10 – Supervised separation</p>		
Canadian Kennel Club (they use the name Canadian Good Neighbour Programme)		<p>1 – Accepting a friendly stranger</p> <p>2 – Politely accepts petting</p> <p>3 – Appearance and grooming</p> <p>4 – Out for a walk</p> <p>5 – Walking through a crowd</p> <p>6 – Sit/down on command and stay in place</p> <p>7 – Come when called</p> <p>8 – Praise/interaction</p> <p>9 – Reaction to a passing dog</p> <p>10 – Reaction to distractions</p> <p>11 – Supervised isolation</p> <p>12 – Walking through a door/gate</p>		