



Kennel Union of Southern Africa

Puppy 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 as long as it meets the age criteria.

Entry Qualifications

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 four (4) months and not more than nine (9) months old to participate in the Puppy Test. Dogs that appear to be sick or diseased may be refused acceptance for participation and may be asked to leave the grounds or premises.

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. Instructors 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 Puppy Canine Good Citizen Tests

Before a *PUPPY* certificate is issued, all the following Tasks must have been passed. Dogs may be tested singly or in groups but not more than five (5) puppies may be evaluated in a group at any one time.

Tasks may be taken and passed in any order.

Test 1

Accepting a stranger

This purpose of this task is to see that a stranger can approach the puppy and handler in a casual, everyday situation. Ignoring the puppy, the Evaluator will walk up to the handler and greet him in a friendly way and shake hands. The puppy must show no signs of resentment or shyness and must not leave his position to go to the stranger. The puppy does not have to assume a position but must not jump up. The Evaluator touches the dog only on the head, neck and body, which completes the task. The puppy must not show shyness or resentment. Evaluators should check that the collar is correctly fitted, of suitable material and appropriate for the breed/breed-type and age of puppy.

Test 2

Care and responsibility

The object is to test the handler's knowledge of basic care and responsible ownership. Five (5) questions should be asked around vaccinations and deworming, house training, socialisation, teething, chewing, and exercise. The puppy does not need to be present for this task. It is recommended that this task be conducted last. See the CGC Guidelines for Evaluators for suggested questions.

- Test 3** **Play with or without toy**
The purpose of this task is to see if a dog can interact well with its handler. The handler will demonstrate a good relationship with the puppy by interreacting with it in a fun way. The handler can use a toy at their discretion.
- Test 4** **Take article away from puppy**
Puppies must learn that they should give up articles when required. An article should be given to the puppy who should give it up when the handler attempts to take it away. The article will be of the handler's choice and suitable for the type of puppy being assessed. If the puppy refuses to take an article the Evaluator may provide an alternative, however if the puppy will not take an article, it should still be passed.
- Test 5** **Walk on lead without distraction**
The purpose of this task is to demonstrate that the handler has some control. If the puppy is distracted by anything in the environment, the handler should encourage the puppy to return to the working side and then continue with the task. The dog must be on the left side of the handler but need not be in the 'heel' position. The course taken must include a left turn, right turn, an about turn with a halt at the end but the puppy doesn't need to sit; it should however be under control. The handler can encourage the puppy by talking snapping of fingers and slapping of sides. Stamping of feet must be discouraged.
- Test 6** **Reaction to another dog**
The purpose of this task is to demonstrate that the dog should have no difficulty in reacting to a group of people. The dog should walk past, at a distance of approximately three (3) metres, at least two (2) persons, one (1) of whom should have a dog. The puppy may show interest in the strangers and the dog but should continue to walk without any evidence of shyness or over exuberance and should not be pulling at the lead. Throughout this task the handler may encourage, praise or talk to the puppy. The 'strange' dog must be of suitable disposition.
- Test 7** **Recall**
The handler should walk forwards a few paces before running backwards calling the puppy who should follow without hesitation. A change of direction should be shown before recalling the puppy. The puppy doesn't need to present in the sit position.
- Test 8** **Down**
The handler should 'down' the puppy. No duration is required for the task but the puppy should clearly be under control in the position. Luring is allowed to get the puppy into the down, but treats can only be used as a reward for taking up the position. The puppy may be downed on their 'bed' should the handler choose to do so.
- Test 9** **Food manners**
The puppy should display good food manners when taking a treat. This task does not need to be specifically tested for if the handler is using food as a reward during the other tasks.

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 Puppy 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 → Responsible Ownership → Canine Good Citizen Programme

For more information, contact the KUSA office at applications@kusa.co.za or call 021 423 9027.

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