



## **GOOD CITIZEN AWARDS SCHEME**

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## Good Citizen Scheme Gold Award

### Aim

The Take the Lead Good Citizen Gold Award is the second highest level of Good Citizenship and builds upon the skills learned in the Silver Award. For the Gold Award examiners will only accept dogs that have already been awarded a Bronze and Silver Award Certificate, that have proper means of identification and, whose handlers can show their means of cleaning up after their dog. In addition to this, dogs must not have bitten or shown aggression towards any human in the preceding six months prior to the examination date. They must not have shown excessive aggression towards other dogs in the preceding six months prior to the test. For clarification, please consult your trainer.

### 1. ROAD WALK

The object is to test the ability of the dog to walk on lead under control beside the handler and for the handler to determine the speed of the walk. This exercise will be carried out at a suitable outdoor location and an occasional tight lead will be acceptable. Gentle leaders may not be worn.

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 in the sit position. On command they should proceed, observing the Highway Code. When reaching the other side they should turn and continue walking making at least 5 changes of pace from normal to slow or fast walking pace. The handler and dog will return across the road to the starting point of the exercise.

Distractions will be incorporated such as passing vehicles or bicycles, people, and “obnoxious dogs”- your dog should display no reaction to these.

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

### 2. RETURN TO HANDLER'S SIDE

a) the object is to be able to bring the dog back under close control during a lead free walk. With the dog off lead and not less than 10 paces away, upon instruction, the dog will be called back to the walking handlers side and both should continue together for approximately ten paces. Note: The dog moving loosely at the handler's side, but under control, is quite acceptable.

b) As above with distractions, such as children running, and “obnoxious dogs”. Your dog should pay no attention to these, and if it does go towards them should come back *first* time when requested to.

### 3. WALK FREE BESIDE HANDLER

The object is for the dog to be kept “close” to the handler's side as may be necessary on a walk in the park. This is not heelwork but a test of control while walking with a dog off lead beside its handler for approximately 40 paces. Therefore, it is only necessary for the dog to be kept loosely beside the handler.

Two changes of direction will take place and there will be the distraction of another handler passing with a well-behaved dog and an “obnoxious” dog on lead. Upon instruction, the dog will be placed on lead as a finish to the test.

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

#### **4. STAY DOWN IN ONE PLACE- Inside**

The object is that the dog will stay down on the spot while the handler moves away for 10 minutes out of sight. This stay will be tested off lead and handlers should place their dogs in the down position. Note: no change of position is allowed.

#### **5. SEND THE DOG TO BED-inside**

The object is to demonstrate control such as might be required in the home. The handler may provide the dog's bed, blanket, mat, or an article of clothing etc. The handler should place the dog's bed in a position determined by the examiner. The handler will stand approximately ten paces from the bed. Upon instruction, the handler will send the dog to bed where the dog will remain until the examiner is satisfied the dog is settled.

Note: The dog is not being sent to bed in disgrace. No inducement e.g. toys or food should be used during this exercise.

#### **6. STOP THE DOG- Inside**

The object is for the handler to stop the dog at a distance in an emergency situation. With the dog off lead and at a distance not less than approximately ten paces away the handler will be instructed to stop the dog on the spot in any position.

Note: The dog is expected to respond straight away to the stop command but if moving at speed, will be allowed a reasonable distance to come to a stop. Only two commands may be given. Dog will remain, in a stand, sit, or down until the handler returns to the dog to put a lead on.

#### **7. TEMPERMENT TEST**

The dogs will be secured to a tether outside such as railings or a lamppost and instructed to "down" or "sit". The owner then will leave the dog and remain out of sight for the duration of the test.

The dog should not become unduly stressed or defensive as defined by the examiner.

During the examination, a stranger will approach the dog and try to pat it, the dog should not growl, bark or display any other defensive behaviour.

The dog should show no pronounced defensive reaction to people walking past.

Note: this is not a stay exercise and dogs will not be penalised for moving position. The test will last no longer than 5 minutes.

#### **8. FOOD MANNERS**

A tasty food item will be placed in front of the dog and the owner will request that the dog leaves it. The owner will then move out of sight for 2 minutes, come back to their dog and give the dog a command to eat the food.

#### **9. Sit and stay.**

The dog will sit and stay for 5 minutes; the owners should stand 15 paces away. The dog should not change position. **Note** if the dog has passed the other stages, the judge may allow one or two changes in position.