



GOOD CITIZEN AWARDS SCHEME

© Elaine Henley

Good Citizen Bronze Award

This award aims to produce a dog that will walk and sit in a controlled manner on the lead, will lie down on command, will allow its owner to clean and groom it and inspect it. The dog must also be able to be positioned by its owner for examination i.e.: stand, sit, and lie down on either side or on its back, all on a lead. Finally, the dog must come to hand when called.

Description of Exercises:

1. CLEANLINESS AND IDENTIFICATION

Each handler must carry with them some form of "poop scoop" and all dogs must wear a collar and identification tag. The owner should be reminded that they must always remove any fouling caused by their dog and carry with them some form of "poop scoop". Note: These essentials are part of the law.

2. WALK ON LEAD

Walk on lead without distractions. The owner will be holding the lead with the dog by their side throughout this section. The dog should walk at the handler's side without undue pulling forward or back. Note: Competition heelwork is not the aim. Training Aids are allowed such as "Gentle Leaders"

4. CONTROL AT DOOR/GATE

Walk on lead through Door/Gate. The owner will hold the lead and with the dog under control walk the dog through gate/doorway. Note: The objectives of exercise three also apply. The dog should not pull or be pulled through the doorway.

5. CONTROLLED WALK AMONGST PEOPLE AND DOGS

Walk on lead passing people and dogs without the dog lunging at either people or dogs.

Behave in controlled manner whilst owner holds a conversation for one minute. The dog must be able to stand, sit or lie down in a quiet relaxed manner whilst the owner is holding a conversation for one minute.

6. STAY ON LEAD FOR ONE MINUTE

Stay in one position on command, on lead. The handler should place the dog with the lead attached in a position of their choice i.e. stand, sit or down. Upon instruction, having quietly dropped the lead on the ground next to the dog, the handler will move a distance of five paces away for a period of one minute. Note: The dog must stay in the position it has been left in, however minor movements within that position are acceptable. Extra commands are permitted but should not be excessive.

7. GROOM

Grooming should be performed relevant to the individual dog. Note: This exercise is a test of ability to keep the dog clean and healthy without a struggle. Handlers are required to provide their own grooming equipment. Any signs of aggression or nervousness while grooming the dog will be deemed not ready.

8. PRESENT FOR EXAMINATION

The examiner will be shown how a handler can examine their own dog. This exercise will be carried out on lead. The dog will be required to have its mouth, teeth, throat, eyes, ears and feet inspected when standing, sitting or lying down on either side or on its back. Note: This is a most important exercise and will require considerable care, expertise and patience on the part of the trainer. The average new owner may find this exercise difficult and frustrating. However, by ensuring that dogs are properly socialised before attempting this exercise and that this exercise is only carried out under careful supervision will success be achieved.

9. RETURN TO HANDLER

A 3rd Party will hold the dog and the owner will call the dog to them the aim is to enable the handler to call the dog to them when released within a restricted area, i.e. home or garden. The dog does not have to sit upon its return. Note: The handler is to be advised not to let the dog run uncontrolled in open spaces such as woods, parks and farmland.