

Canadian Canine Good Citizen™ Certification Program



Published by

Responsible Dog Owners of Canada

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Canadian Good Citizen™ Certification Program


Welcome to the Canadian Canine Good Citizen™ (CCGC™) Certification Program, a program owned and promoted by Responsible Dog Owners of Canada's (RDOC).

The CCGC™ Certification Program is a ten-step (10-step) test that assesses a dog's behaviour in simulated everyday situations in a relaxed atmosphere. It identifies and rewards dogs that have the training and demeanour to be reliable family and community members.

The purpose of the CCGC™ Test is to ensure that our favourite companion and assistant, the dog, is a respected member of the community because it is trained and conditioned to act mannerly in the home, public places and the presence of other dogs. All dogs are eligible for the test and certification, i.e. dogs with or without a pedigree.

CCGC™ training is fun and useful. Through it, both the handler/owner and dog will establish a closer bond and the dog will have the added benefit of knowing how to please his or her handler/owner. The test of a dog's manners and training is not a competition and does not require the owner/handler and dog to perform with precision.

RDOC urges all dog owners to participate in this program, thereby ensuring that our companions will always be welcome and respected members of the community are welcome in more public places.



***"Trained dogs
are welcome in
more public
places."***

Training a Canadian Canine Good Citizen™



When humans took the dog from the wild as a companion, we assumed responsibility for the dog's care and upbringing. Over time, humans taught dogs to obey household rules so they would be welcome family members. Now they must also have good manners in public to live harmoniously within communities.

Every dog should be able to respond to at least five basic commands to function acceptably in public, i.e. heel, sit, down, stay and come. Response to these commands gives the dogs the social skills that defuse anti-canine feelings and foster good citizenship. However, a dog is not capable of training itself; it needs an owner's help to become a canine good citizen.

Training results in a controlled dog, one that does not annoy the neighbours or their dogs and does not resist grooming procedures or a veterinary examination. Training stimulates a dog's mind and gives its life meaning by knowing how to please an owner and what is expected. In an emergency, training can save a dog's life.

A trained dog has good manners that reflect favourably on its owner, its breed and its species. The CCGC™ Certification Program will help dog owners achieve this goal. And, RDOC will recognize this accomplishment with a special certificate and a CCGC™ medallion.

Many training schools offer courses that can prepare an owner and dog for the CCGC™ Test. Such courses allow an owner and dog to work with others who share a similar goal. Some schools also offer a regular CCGC™ Test or can arrange a private testing. Clubs, associations and animal shelters often host a CCGC™ Test as a fundraiser. Scheduled tests across Canada are posted on the RDOC website at www.responsible dogowners.ca.

If a course is not available in a particular area, owners may use this booklet to work with their dog to achieve the level of training required to achieve CCGC™ certification. Once an owner feels confident of their dog's level of training, they should seek out a certified CCGC™ Evaluator in their area who can schedule a test. A list of certified CCGC™ Evaluators is posted, by province, on the RDOC website at www.responsible dogowners.ca.

Want to Become a CCGC™ Evaluator?

Responsible Dog Owners of Canada invites and welcomes applications for CCGC™ Evaluators. Any person with the following qualifications may apply to become a CCGC™ Evaluator:

- 1) twenty-one (21) years of age or over;
- 2) a member in good standing of RDOC;
- 3) certified trainer or behaviourist with a recognized institute or actively involved in canine activities for a minimum of three (3) years (600 hours) with at least one recognized training facility, a canine-related club or activity or rescue organization;
- 4) comprehensive knowledge of and experience in dog behaviour, e.g. breeding, showing, performance events, dog training, canine-related education, obedience, assistance, or therapy animal training, veterinary care, professional canine services, rescue, etc.;
- 5) Two references; one (1) character reference and one (1) reference attesting to skills in handling and training dogs.

Note: All Canada Canine Good Citizen™ Evaluators previously approved by Human Animal Bond Association of Canada, Canadian Good Neighbour Evaluators approved by the Canadian Kennel Club and Canine Good Citizen Evaluators approved by the American Kennel Club are automatically accepted as RDOC CCGC™ Evaluators provided they are or become RDOC members.

Who May Host a Canadian Canine Good Citizen™ Test?

A Canadian Canine Good Citizen™ Test may be hosted by local groups such as dog clubs, private training schools, rescue groups, animal shelters and service organizations, etc.

Currently, RDOC hosts regular testing in Ottawa, Ontario and is working to schedule regular testing in other provinces. Organizations or RDOC Evaluators across Canada wanting to host an RDOC-sponsored or an organization/club/rescue-sponsored test in their area should contact ccgc@responsibledogowners.ca.

Conducting a Canadian Canine Good Citizen™ Test

A host will need a suitable location for testing, a location where there is access to an outside environment and a public setting, e.g. community centre, training or agility facility, obedience, conformation or canine event show, animal shelter, etc.

The event should be advertised. A blank poster can be downloaded from the RDOC website at www.responsibledogowners.ca. Once a date and location have been decided upon, the host should notify RDOC of the test location, date, time and contact for the test at ccgc@responsibledogowners.ca so that it can be posted on the RDOC website.

As a general rule, twenty (20) dogs are considered a reasonable number that can be tested in one day. However if a large participant entry is anticipated and the location is ample, multiple Evaluators may be appointed to conduct the tests.

Order forms for test kits are available online at www.responsibledogowners.ca. Orders may be submitted by e-mail or regular mail. CCGC™ Test kits are available for ten (10), twenty-five (25), fifty (50), seventy-five (75) and one hundred (100) dogs. The test organizer or the CCGC™ Evaluator will submit an order from to RDOC requesting a kit for the number of owners and dogs. The kit includes all of the materials necessary for the test, see CCGC Test Materials, page 5.

The test **must not** be conducted alone. A minimum of one (1) CCGC™ Evaluator and one (1) assistant should be involved in the testing. Additional people should be recruited to ensure that there enough people, i.e. at least three (3), for Test Number 5: Walking Through a Crowd. Another handler with a well-behaved dog is required for Test Number 8: Reaction to Another Dog. .

If a large number of dogs are scheduled for testing, in the interest of time and maintaining spectator appeal, a proven manner for running the test is as follows:

- ✓ enlist the services of three (3) CCGC™ Evaluators;
- ✓ first Evaluator conducts Test Numbers 1 through 3;
- ✓ second Evaluator conducts Test Numbers 4 through 7; and
- ✓ third Evaluator conducts Test Numbers 8 through 10

The host should obtain the services of at least one (1) certified CCGC™ Evaluator and preferably a one (1) additional Evaluator for every 10 dogs tested. The host and Evaluator should agree on an honorarium and order a CCGC™ test kit for the number of dogs registered for the test.

Following the completion of the test, test results, i.e. both the test summary and test sheets, waivers and responsible dog owner pledges, along with ten percent (10%) of the test fee charged per dog, are forwarded to RDOC at the address listed on the test summary sheet. RDOC will send a CCGC™ certificate and dog tag medallion for each successful team to the host organization or the CCGC™ Evaluator for distribution, or to each individual team, whichever is most practical.

Guidelines for Evaluators

The CCGC™ Test is recognized as a credible assessment of a dog's behaviour and manners in public. It is the Evaluator's obligation to ensure that the integrity of the CCGC™ Test is preserved and protected. Dogs are evaluated on a pass or fail basis and Evaluators **must fail** a dog if the dog does not pass **each** test.

Good manners are mandatory dogs and owners on site at all times. Before Evaluators pass a dog, it should be considered whether the dog, from a behavioural perspective, is a dog they:

- 1) would like to own;
- 2) think is safe with people;
- 3) would welcome as a neighbour; and
- 4) believe makes its owner happy while not making someone else unhappy.

To qualify for the CCGC™ Certificate, a dog must be at least six (6) months of age, must pass all ten (10) categories and demonstrate good manners at all times. It should be noted that because a dog's temperament can change with age, health issues, and/or environmental surroundings, RDOC recommends that dogs be retested every three (3) years.

Try to create a relaxed, realistic atmosphere. A dog does not have to perform with precision to become a Canadian Canine Good Citizen and may walk on either side of the handler. Handlers may talk to the dog throughout the test but cannot offer food. Guidelines for each test are explained in detail later in this booklet.

Collars, Leashes and Equipment

All tests must be performed on leash or a long line. A well-fitting, flat buckle or martingale collar is recommended. At the discretion of the Evaluator, a head halter or well-fitting body harness may be used if the handler has a mobility disability or balance issue or the dog has a health issue such as a collapsible trachea. The host organization must supply a six (6) metre (approximately 18 foot) leash or training line for Test Number 6.

In the province of Ontario and some Canadian cities, certain breeds or breed crosses such as pit bull-type dogs, American Staffordshire Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers, Rottweilers, Dobermans, Huskies, etc. must be muzzled and it is **imperative** that such laws are adhered to.

An exception may be made if the test is held in a private facility and a waiver, which may be ordered with the kit), allowing the dogs to be muzzle-free is signed by **all parties** at the testing. Host organizations or the Evaluator must check the local bylaws to ensure that there are no restrictions regarding certain breeds.

Equipment and tools that may be helpful in a testing include small plastic bags and a grooming tool (for owners who neglect to bring their own), rope to define areas, baby gates, masking tape, pencils, clip boards, a walker, crutches, bicycle or baby stroller and hats, noise makers or toys that can be used for distractions.

Automatic Failure

Any dog that jumps up or lunges on a person or another dog or displays unruly behaviour at any time is automatically disqualified.

Any dog that growls, barks, snaps or at a person or another dog will be disqualified and dismissed from the test

Any dog that eliminates during the test is automatically disqualified. The only exception to this rule is during Test Numbers 4 and/or 5, if held outdoors.

Order of Tests

The tests may be given in any order. However, it is recommended that the registration, validation of rabies and municipal licence certificates and signing of waivers and responsible dog owner pledges be held prior to the testing. The liability waivers and pledges **must be signed** by all test participants and returned to RDOC.

CCGC™ Test Materials

Test kits, test sheets, posters, guidelines and other helpful information must be purchased for all CCGC™ Tests from RDOC. Kits are available for 10, 25, 50 and 100 dogs. An order form may be downloaded from the RDOC website at www.responsible dogowners.ca or may be requested by e-mailing ccgc@responsible dogowners.ca or calling 613. 228.7764. Payment for kits may be made through PayPal or by making a cheque payable to RDOC and mailed to RDOC – CCGC, 1289 Evans Blvd., Ottawa, ON K1H 7T8

A test kit contains the following materials:

- CCGC Handbook(s)
- CCGC Test Poster(s) (to advertise the date and location of test)
- Test Station Signs
- Test Sheets
- Summary Sheets
- CCGC™ Waivers and Responsible Dog Ownership Pledge Sheets
- Waivers for restricted breeds (if requested)

The Tests

Before beginning the tests, the owner/handler must read, sign and submit the waiver form, the Responsible Dog Owner Pledge Sheet and present current certificates for any federal, provincial or inoculations and licences. If a restricted breed or cross breed is being tested, all parties present must sign a waiver allowing the dog to be muzzle-free.

The dog should be checked to ensure that only a well-fitting buckle collar or martingale collar is being utilized. At the discretion of the CCGC™ Evaluator, other types of harnesses may be used by owners/handlers with disabilities who require special equipment for balance, stability, etc.

Test Number 1: Accepting a friendly stranger

The owner shakes hands with a friendly stranger. This test displays a dog's acceptance of unfamiliar adults and children. It demonstrates that the dog will allow a friendly stranger to approach and speak to the handler in a natural, everyday situation.

The Evaluator walks up to the dog and handler and greets the handler in a friendly manner but ignores the dog. The Evaluator and the handler shake hands and exchange pleasantries. The dog must show no sign of fear, shyness or defensiveness, and he must not break position or try to go to the Evaluator.

Test Number	Acceptable Behaviour	Unacceptable Behaviour
Test Number 1: Accepting a friendly stranger	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Sitting or standing in placeb) Wagging tail (submissive)c) Interest in Evaluator, leaving position at handler's sided) Wiggling body	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Excessive enthusiasmb) Backing off from a strangerc) Lungingd) Jumpinge) Approaching Evaluatorf) Leaving handler's side

Training for Test Number 1: Accepting a friendly stranger

Your dog needs to be shown how to behave when you meet friends on the street or welcome them into your home. No one enjoys a lunging, jumping dog, and some people are afraid of such a rambunctious animal.

Arrange numerous social encounters by inviting friends to your home by taking walks in your neighbourhood. Keep your leash handy where you are home so that you can snap it on your dog as soon as the doorbell rings. When your dog shows excitement at someone's approach, put your foot on the leash at a length just short enough to prevent lunging, pulling or attempts to jump. Use a toy or food lure to position and maintain your dog in a sit by moving the lure from the dog's nose up towards his forehead. As he follows the lure, the dog will sit. Praise quietly. If using a food lure, give a small bit to the dog. As dog's response improves, require him to maintain the sit for longer periods before giving any food. Finally, give food only occasionally. Always praise your dog when it responds.

If you wish, have your dog sit and stay as you pause to shake hands, see training for Test Number 6: Sit and down. The "*stay*" command helps to keep excitable dogs under control. Praise your dog when he obeys. Set him up for instant "self-correction" by placing your foot on the leash so that if your dog tries to jump, he checks himself. Do praise and reward sitting.

It may take many repetitions for your dog to realize that social encounters at home and in public must be met in a civilized way. If you are consistent in showing your dog how to you expect it to behave when you meet friends and strangers, he will soon respond consistently and confidently.

Test Number 2: Patiently sitting for petting



This is a test for shyness and resistance to the entry of personal space. This test demonstrates that the dog will allow a friendly stranger to touch it while it is out with its handler.

With the dog at the handler's side (either side is permissible) throughout the exercise, the Evaluator pets the dog on the head and the body **only**. The handler may talk to his or her dog throughout the exercise.

After petting, the Evaluator then circles the dog and handler, completing the test. The dog must not show shyness or attempt to defend his personal space.

Test Number	Acceptable Behaviour	Unacceptable Behaviour
Test Number 2: Sitting politely for petting	a) Sitting with interest by the handler/owner b) Interest in watching Evaluator as he/she moves about c) Wagging tail	a) Shyness b) Leaning away from touch c) Moving about, following or avoiding the Evaluator d) Lying down e) Ears drawn back, lips curled

Training for Test Number 2: Patiently sitting for petting

In public, strangers will want to meet your budding canine good citizen. You have already accomplished a large part of this exercise by teaching your dog to ignore pedestrians in public and react calmly to visitors at home.

You can start by having your dog remain in place while you and family members approach and pet him. Then practice with people the dog knows and likes. Set your dog up for success by preventing the possibility of jumping, see Test Number 1: Accepting a friendly stranger. At first you may reward the dog with a bit of food as dog is being petted. As he learns to remain in place, give the food bit after being petted. Repeat until you do not need to keep your foot on the leash. Praise quietly when your dog is good.

As soon as your dog understands that he must hold his place while being petted by those he knows, you can allow strangers to do the same. As your dog gets better at holding his place, give a food reward only occasionally but always praise quietly. Remember that many individuals, especially children, do not know how to approach animals and may need some guidance.

Test Number 3: Appearance and Grooming

This test reveals the owner's care and sense of responsibility for their dog. This practical test demonstrates that the dog will welcome being groomed and examined and will permit a stranger such as a veterinarian, groomer or friend of the owner to do so. It also demonstrates the owner's care, concern and responsibility for the physical well-being of the dog.

The Evaluator inspects the dog to determine if it is clean and groomed. The dog must appear to be in healthy condition, i.e. proper weight, clean, healthy and alert. The handler should supply the comb or brush commonly used on the dog. The Evaluator then softly combs or brushes the dog, and in a natural manner, lightly examines the ears and gently picks up each front foot. It is not necessary for the dog to hold a specific position during the examination, and the handler may talk to the dog, praise it and give it encouragement throughout.

Test Number	Acceptable Behaviour	Unacceptable Behaviour
Test Number 3: Appearance and grooming	a) Standing, moving feet b) Wagging tail	a) Backing off from Evaluator b) Sitting in an evasive manner c) Lying down d) Ears down/back e) Curling lips in a snarl f) Hackles up

Training for Test Number 3: Appearance and grooming



Gentle combing and brushing are a natural extension of petting and stroking. Your dog should receive gradual, positive conditioning to being groomed and examined, including his paws, from puppyhood on. If you acquire an adult dog, begin right away. If your dog fears this type of handling or becomes uncertain when his ears or feet are touched, spend time allowing him to associate grooming and human touch with a happy experience, such as vocal praise and training treats when he gives the slightest positive response.

Pleasant daily handling and grooming will help you recognize physical problems early on and your dog will learn that being examined and groomed is a welcome part of everyday life. Once your dog is comfortable being groomed and examined by you, ask someone else to do the same using the “sit”, “down” and “stand” command, if you wish. Your dog will then be ready for visits to pet care professionals and for CCGC™ Test Numbers 1 through 3.

Test Number 4: Out for a walk (loose leash)

This exercise illustrates handler's control of his or her dog. The dog may be on either side of the handler, whichever the handler prefers. It should be noted that the left-side position is required in Canadian Kennel Obedience competition and most activities where the dog serves as a service animal, e.g. guide dog, etc.

The dog's position should leave no doubt that the dog is attentive to the handler and is responding to the handler's movements and changes of direction. The dog need not be perfectly aligned with the handler and need not sit when the handler stops.

The Evaluator may use a pre-plotted course or may direct the handler/dog team by issuing instructions on command. In either case, there must be a left turn, right turn, and an about turn, with at least one stop in between and another at the end. The handler may talk to the dog along the way to praise or command it in a normal tone of voice. The handler may also sit the dog at the halt, if desired.

Test Number	Acceptable Behaviour	Unacceptable Behaviour
Test Number 4: Out for a walk (loose leash)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Loose leashb) Attentive to the handlerc) Tail wagging as the dog movesd) Sitting or standing when handler stops (either is acceptable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Backing off from Evaluatorb) Sitting in an evasive mannerc) Lying downd) Ears down & backe) Curling lips in a snarlf) Hackles up with one or more of the above

Training for Test Number 4: Out for a walk (loose leash)

In order to see your movements and respond to them, your dog's head needs to be fairly close to your side. Most untrained dogs tend to pull ahead, making a simple walk an unpleasant task. Your dog can learn to move on a loose leash and, as soon as he does, you will find that you are taking him everywhere with you because your canine companion is fun to be with.



You can train for this exercise by allowing your dog slack in the leash as you begin to move away from you, turn and walk in the opposite direction. Praise immediately when the dog catches up and drop a bit of kibble or other small food bit allowing enough slack for your dog to “*get it*”, turn and walk a step away from your dog keeping the leash slack. Repeat until your dog is “*catching up*” every time. Now continue walking two steps before dropping the treat, then four steps, then more. Add turns. When your dog tightens the leash, stop. Do not move or speak until the leash slackens, then praise, turn your back, move away, let your dog catch and repeat the above training game.

Praise anytime your dog is moving without pulling. Continue to occasionally surprise your dog by dropping a food bit for him to chase. With these techniques, your dog learns that you are fun to be with. Your praise and the feeling of the loose collar when your dog is near your leg will be very reinforcing. As you progress, you can make sharper turns to keep your dog's attention on you. When you stop so should your dog. It is not necessary that your dog sit when you stop but a “*sit*” gives you much more control in public, especially if you are approaching people who want to talk to you.

You can also teach this exercise by showing your dog a treat or a toy to entice him to move with you as you begin to walk. Training such as this may be helpful at first when moving past distractions. Anticipation of food and play motivates the dog to stay in the proper place. Praise and a loose collar reinforce it. Eventually, the dog will develop a habit of moving happily in the desired position, and treats and toys can be eliminated.

Whatever technique you use should result in success, especially if you bring in distraction gradually. A distraction is anything your dog is interested in such as children, cats, other dogs or even someone pulling into the driveway.

Handlers working on their own quite often need the help and advice of an experienced trainer. This exercise requires patience and just the right touch on the leash and collar. If you run into a problem, try using a trainer.

Test Number 5: Walking through a crowd

This test demonstrates that the dog can move around politely in pedestrian traffic and is under handler control in public places.

The dog and handler walk around and pass close to at least three (3) people, preferable more. The dog may show some interest in the strangers but should continue to walk with the handler without evidence of over exuberance, shyness or defense of personal space. The handler may talk to the dog and encourage or praise the dog throughout the test. The dog should not be straining at the leash.

Test Number	Acceptable Behaviour	Unacceptable Behaviour
Test Number 5: Walking through a crowd	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Loose Leashb) Attentive to the handlerc) Tail wagging as the dog movesd) Sitting or standing when handler stops (either is acceptable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Excessive sniffing of peopleb) Pulling toward people

Training for Test Number 5: Walking through a crowd

Because you have already practiced loose leash walking in your neighbourhood, your dog is probably used to encountering people. However, if there is no one around, go to a location where there are people, e.g. a local park that is designated dog-friendly or a downtown street. Please note that an area or park designated off-leash is not suitable for this exercise.

With an excitable dog, try to work up to close encounters gradually until your dog is comfortable and controllable. For example, choose a quiet weekday evening for a walk in town before you choose a busy weekend.

You can also practice loose leash walking at a distance from people and then move in closer as your dog adjusts to them. If your dog attempts to pull, reaches out to sniff or jumps on passing individuals, immediately turn away. Always praise your dog when he is good. With experience, he will learn to ignore pedestrians.

Test Number 6: Response to commands "sit", "down", "stay" and "come"

This exercise exhibits that the dog is trained and responds well to his handler/owner. The test demonstrates that the dog has training, will respond to the handler's commands to sit and down, will remain in the place designated by the handler (in a sit or down position, whichever the handler prefers) and will come to the handler when called away from a friendly stranger.

Prior to the test, the dog's leash is replaced with a 6-metre line. The handler may take a reasonable amount of time and use more than one command to make the dog sit and then down. The Evaluator must determine if the dog has responded to the handler's command. The handler may not force the dog into either position but may touch the dog to offer gentle guidance.

When instructed by the Evaluator, the handler tells the dog to stay and, with the 6-metre line in hand, walks forward the length of the line, turns and returns to the dog at a natural pace (the 6-metre line is not removed or dropped). The dog must remain in the place in which it was left (he must stay in the sit or down but may adjust position) until the Evaluator instructs the handler to release the dog. The dog may be released from the front or the side.

Test Number	Accept Behaviour	Unacceptable Behaviour
Test Number 6: Sit and down on command, staying in place and coming when called	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Handler may repeat command, a light touch b) Stay – maintain sit or down shifts weight c) Coming directly to handler d) Immediate response 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Verbal reprimand b) Harsh voice c) Calling more than twice d) Going somewhere else on way to handler e) Comes then leaves handler

Training for Test Number 6: Sit and down



If you are like most dog owners, you have already taught your dog to sit on command. Maybe you have also taught your dog to down and, if so, you can skip this part and go right to the section on staying in place.

These commands are best taught in a non-aversive fashion. Always praise your dog as soon as he responds.

To teach your dog to sit, hold a piece of food or a toy in front of his nose and lift the treat up over his nose and forehead. Also, keep the treat very close to your dog's body as you say "*sit*". As your dog looks up at the reward, his rear will settle into a sit. If he does not, take your free hand and push lightly on his rear. Praise your dog and give him a treat instantly.



To teach down, put the food or toy in front of your sitting dog's nose and lower it to the ground slightly ahead of his feet while saying "*down*". As your dog reaches down for the reward, he will lower the front end of his body. If it does not lower completely into a down position, use your free hand to push lightly on his shoulders. Praise your dog and instantly give him a treat.

Practice these exercises several times in a row over a period of several days. Gradually bring in distractions until your responds reliably to either command in public places.

a) Stay in place

With your dog at your side, command him to sit or down. Once he is in position, you are ready to introduce a “*stay*” command.

Lower your hand, palm towards the dog’s fact, as a signal to stay as you say the word “*stay*”; then stand in front of your dog’s nose. Remain there for a few seconds, repositioning your dog instantly if he starts to break position with an accompanying “*no*”. If your dog remains in place, go back to his side and praise him. Give your dog a treat or toy as you are praising. Practice this several times over a period of three or four days.

As soon as your dog understands what stay means, start adding time. Wait for a count of two before praising and rewarding, then a count of 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10, then you may introduce distractions. Only when your dog is reliable with distractions for a period of one (1) to two (2) minutes n a down should you gradually begin to move further away from your dog. Move in closer and reduce the time if you experience difficulty, and be sure to practice the command on-leash whenever and wherever you want them obeyed.

b) Recall

Begin in the house when you are sure your dog will come to you. With food or toy in hand, back up and, as your dog comes to you, take the collar, praising happily as you give the food or toy. Release your dog telling him “*go play*”. Repeat many times gradually increasing the distance your dog must travel to get to you.

Hide around a corner in another room and call your dog. When he comes, praise, pat and give a treat reward. Release with “*go play*”. When the dog is reliable in the house, repeat outside in a fenced area beginning close to your and gradually getting further away.

After several weeks repeat all of the above but have a friendly person standing quietly near your dog as you call your dog to you. Repeat many times gradually increase the distance your dog must travel. As you continue to have success, ask the person to quietly say “hello” to your dog and repeat all of the above. Remember when teaching to set it up so your dog can be successful. Most of the time, release your dog to “*go play*” when he comes.

Let your dog chase you sometimes when you call, then stop and tell him to sit. Play hide and seek. Use really great rewards. Keep it fun. Never call your dog to you to do something unpleasant. Just go and get him. Until your dog is reliable, avoid opportunities for him to ignore your call to come. Keep a long line, e.g. ten (10) to twenty (20) metres is good, attached when you let him loose to play. Step on the line or hang onto it before calling so he has to be successful. Reward and again say “*go play*”.

Be sure to practice the commands on leash wherever and wherever you want them obeyed, e.g. the veterinarian’s office, on the street, the shopping plaza, at home when you have guests, etc.

Test Number 7: Praise / Interaction



This test shows the dog's relationship with his owner and that the dog can be calmed down easily. It is practical that the Praise / Interaction Test should follow the release of the dog from Test Number 6: Sit and down.

This test demonstrates that the dog can be easily calmed following play or praise and can leave the area of the test in a mannerly fashion. The test should be more than ten (10) seconds in duration and begins when, on the Evaluator's instruction, the dog is released from Test Number 6: Sit and down.

The handler may use one or any combination of verbal praise, petting, playing with a toy (tossed or handed to the dog) or a favourite trick, but not food. The dog may actively play or simply be passively agreeable to praise. When the Evaluator calls time, the handler will calm the dog for the next test. The handler's voice may be firm but not loud or angry. Slight leash pressure is acceptable.

Test Number	Acceptable Behaviour	Unacceptable Behaviour
Test Number 7: Praise / interaction	a) Enthusiasm in dog b) Slight leash pressure c) Leaping around d) Cued behaviour	a) Use of food b) Loud or angry voice c) Leaping on people d) Out-of-control behaviour

Training for Test Number 7: Praise / Interaction

Your dog should receive frequent praise during training and will soon learn to become mannerly following a praise-and-fun break. A dog that has successfully executed the preceding tests should not have a problem in being brought under control after praise and/or play.



Test Number 8: Reaction to another dog

This test demonstrates that the dog behaves politely around other dogs.

Two handlers and their dogs approach each other from a distance of about three (3) metres, stop, shake hands, exchange pleasantries and continue on for about two (2) metres.

The dogs should show no more than a casual interest in each other. Neither dog should go to the other dog or its handler.

Test Number	Acceptable Behaviour	Unacceptable Behaviour
Test Number 8: Reaction to another dog	a) On stopping: b) Sitting by handler c) Standing by handler d) Signal to walk on e) Maintained hand (stay) signal f) Signal to walk on g) (plus all that applies to Test Number 1: Accepting a friendly stranger)	a) Dog leaves handlers side b) Constantly tight leash c) Reprimands d) Harsh commands e) Barking / whining f) Plus all that applies to Test Number 1: Accepting a friendly stranger

Training for Test Number 8: Reaction to another dog



You will need to find a location where there are enough dogs, such as a boarding kennel, grooming salon, veterinarian's office or dog-friendly pet store that offer opportunities to practice good canine-to-canine manners and are also locations where you need your dog to be under control.

If you have already accomplished the stay exercise with distractions, you can consider this exercise as just one example of distraction. To begin, every time you see a dog and handler walking, enforce a stay command in either a sit or down position as they pass by. Reposition your dog instantly if he breaks position and praise him when he responds. Start from a safe distance, moving as far away as needed so that both dogs in the encounter feel secure. When your dog becomes more confident, you can move closer to approaching dogs and handlers. If anyone wants to stop and talk, enforce your stay command.

Dogs performing the CCCG™ Test have had an introduction to this exercise but must be alert when practicing in real life. Unfortunately, the dog you are approaching may not be trained and may have poor manners.

Practice the exercise until your dog reacts reliably to canine encounters. The dog should show no more than mild interest in the approaching dog and handler so you can stop, shake hands or go on your way.

Test Number 9: Distractions

This exercise illustrates that the dog is confident at all times when faced with common distractions. The Evaluator will select only two (2) of the follow:

- a) A person using crutches, a wheelchair or a walker: Please note that this distraction simulates a disabled person who requires the use of service equipment;
- b) A sudden closing or opening of a door;

- c) Dropping a large book, no closer than three (3) metres behind the dog;
- d) A jogger running in front of the dog;
- e) Good-natured pushing or shoving or animated, excited talk and back-slapping by persons, with the dog and handler passing within four (4) metres;
- f) A person pushing a shopping cart approaching from the front or rear, passing within four (4) metres;
- g) A person on a bicycle approaching from the front or rear, passing about two (2) metres to the side of the dog;
- h) Knocking over a chair, no closer than two (2) metres;
- i) Put out a bag of garbage or a garbage can.

The dog may express a natural interest, curiosity or may appear slightly startled but should not panic, try to run away, show aggressiveness or bark. The handler may talk to the dog and encourage or praise him throughout the exercise.

Test Number	Acceptable Behaviour	Unacceptable Behaviour
Test Number 9: Distractions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) No reaction b) Startle response and recovery c) Interest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Panic b) Attempts to leave c) Lunging d) Barking e) Growling f) Aggressive behaviour

Training for Test Number 9: Distractions

Life is full of surprises and your dog should react calmly to most of them. Through exposure to everyday situations, your dog has probably learned to ignore the distractions used in this test. But, if the dog rarely sees a bicycle or has taken to barking and fence-running when he sees a jogger, you may be in for an embarrassing surprise when you are with your dog in public.

If your dog shows fear of unusual objects, sounds or movements, you should help him by briefly exposing him to these things in a nonthreatening environment. Praise, laughter, treats, toys and playful interaction may eventually take his mind off fear and help him associate what was once frightening with positive experiences.

As your dog becomes more confident, you can gradually bring the distractions closer. For example, a heavy book dropped right behind your dog's back may cause an inexperienced or sound-sensitive dog to panic, but a heavy book dropped twenty (20) metres in front of the same dog may not be notice. Gradually moving the book closer, to the side of the dog and, finally behind his back will desensitize the dog in a positive way.

If your dog shows aggressive or fearful behaviour, the same technique may be applied by exposing the dog, gradually and at a distance, to the things that trigger his aggression. Praise your dog instantly for proper behaviour. In the beginning, give the dog especially desirable food treats and/or toys along with praise for good behaviour. A dog of sound temperament learns quickly that good social behaviour is rewarding.

Test Number 10: Supervised isolation

This test reveals that the dog can be left with someone other than its usual handler and will maintain its training and good manners.

The handler will ask the Evaluator or an assistant to watch his/her dog for him/her and then either hand the leash to the Evaluator or an assistant, or fasten the dog to a two-metre (2-metre) line and go to a place out of sight of the dog for three (3) minutes. The dog should not continually bark, whine, howl, pace unnecessarily or show anything other than mild agitation or nervousness. This is not a stay exercise; dogs may stand, sit, lie down and/or change positions during the test.

This test is designed to determine if the dog can be left alone without causing a stressful situation but RDOC **does not endorse** prolonged tethering inside or outside as a general practice. Evaluators are encouraged to say something like, *"Would you like me to watch your dog while you step out of the room?"*. This adds a touch a reality and accentuates the fact that leaving a dog tied and unsupervised is no condoned. Evaluators should watch the dog from a nonintrusive position. They should not talk to or pat the dog.

Test Number	Acceptable Behaviour	Unacceptable Behaviour
Test Number 10: Supervised Isolation	a) Sitting, standing or lying patiently b) May change position c) Brief intermittent whining	a) Pulling at tether b) Continuous vocalizing c) Continuous pacing d) Continues agitated / anxious behaviour

Training for Test Number 10: Supervised isolation

Make sure someone is watching your dog for you during this training or that you can see him in a reflection to ensure that he is safe.

As you and your dog work together, you will discover a bond developing that is based on trust. Not only will you be coming to trust your dog's manners, but he will trust you and your judgment, even if the dog is occasionally left alone in a strange place, such a friend's home, a grooming shop or a boarding kennel.



Prepare your dog by going out of sight for a few seconds as you practice distance. You can work behind a tree or around the corner of a building. If you use a leash that is five (5) to six (6) metres or less and hold on to it, you will know if your dog moves, even if you cannot see him. You may be able to watch your dog's reflection in a shop window. Calmly reward all relaxed behaviour. Frequently return and reward with calm praise. In the beginning, you may also choose to give a food bit as well. Leave again. If you disappear for only a few seconds and never go any great distance, your dog will learn that you are never far away, even when he cannot see you.

As soon as your dog feels comfortable when you go out of sight, gradually extend the time. Tie your dog at a convenient and safe location and disappear for a few seconds. You might want to introduce a new command such as "*wait here*" or "*I'll be back*". This will help your dog understand that he must not try to run away or vocalize, but need not remain in a specific position. You should gradually increase the time you are out of sight and add social distraction until have worked up to three (3) minutes.

On Your Way

Congratulations on the completion of this training so your dog can become a Canadian Canine Good Citizen™. To find out where you can take your dog to be tested, contact RDOC, local dog clubs or private trainers in your area. If they are not familiar with the CCGC™ Program and would like to learn about it, give them the address and phone on the outside back of this booklet. RDOC would be happy to send them a free information packet. Have fun with your best friend, your Canadian Canine Good Citizen™ and, please, spread the word.

Disclaimer

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