

# THE KENNEL CLUB GOOD CITIZEN DOG SCHEME - BRONZE AWARD



## DESCRIPTION OF EXERCISES

### AIM

The Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme Bronze Award aims to produce a dog that will walk and behave in a controlled manner on the lead, will stay in one position on command, will allow its owner to clean, groom and inspect it, a dog that will walk and behave in a happy natural manner, under control on the lead. The dog must also be able to be positioned by its handler for inspection i.e. stand, sit or lie down on either side or on its back, all on the lead. The dog must come to hand when called. The Bronze award aims to provide the handlers with a basic knowledge of understanding and training their canine companion.

### ELIGIBILITY

The Scheme is aimed at all dogs whether Kennel Club registered or not, there is no age limit. For the Bronze Test, dogs are not required to have completed the Puppy Foundation Assessment programme. Handlers must show that they have means of cleaning up after their dog and that it has proper identification. It is a legal requirement to inscribe the name and the address of the owner on the collar or on a plate or disc attached to it. Engraved tags can be purchased from the Kennel Club website. With effect from the 6th April 2016 dogs are required to have a microchip which is registered on a Defra approved database, in the UK (check exemptions).

### STANDARD REQUIRED

The test is non competitive but Examiners should be satisfied that dogs are worthy of passing. Examiners should also observe the spirit of the Scheme, which is to produce happy, contented dogs, which are well behaved, and under the control of handlers who fully understand the responsibilities to their dogs, to their neighbours and to the community. Handlers are permitted only one attempt at each exercise under test, unless there are exceptional circumstances or where a dog has been clearly disadvantaged. or interfered with. Examiners should be aware that they should give clear instructions to the handlers as to how they would like the exercise conducted in order to avoid confusion. A Certificate will be awarded when the required standard has been achieved. Dogs are only permitted one attempt at every exercise.

**Any uncontrolled, mouthing, barking, growling or other threatening behaviour is not acceptable and further training will be required before the dog can be passed. In order for it to be meaningful the testing must be carried out thoroughly and in the same manner for each dog under test. Emphasis must be placed upon the ability of the handler to handle, care for and generally be responsible for their dog.**

Examiners can reserve the right to insist that the handler secures the dog in a safer manner if the equipment used is deemed inadequate. An additional lead could be used in this instance.

### THE TEST

Dogs may be tested singly or in groups, those passing all parts of the test will receive a Good Citizen Dog Scheme Bronze Certificate. The Examiner will enter the comment "Passed" or "Not Ready" along side each exercise. In order to receive a certificate, dogs must receive the comment "Passed" for each exercise during one testing session. The Club/Organisation hosting the test will be responsible for appointing an Examiner and the standards required are stated in the Scheme's Guidelines and Information Handbook and should be strictly adhered to. The Good Citizen Dog Scheme Handbook can be purchased or downloaded from the Scheme's website [www.gcds.org.uk](http://www.gcds.org.uk). It is the responsibility of the Club hosting the Test to provide a suitable microchip scanner.

### HANDOUTS

Literature to be given out at the beginning of each training course

1. Bronze Award Description (including Responsibility & Care)
2. Canine Code

## DESCRIPTION OF EXERCISES

### Exercise 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 complying with the law. 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". It is a legal requirement to inscribe the name and the address of the owner on the collar or on a plate or disc attached to it. Furthermore it is a legal requirement to clean up after your dog in public areas and dispose of the bag in an appropriate bin.

*Notes: In the UK, by law dogs are required to be microchipped and their details registered on an approved database (check exemptions). Dogs will be scanned by their owner prior to testing. It is not the responsibility of the Examiner to verify the details on the database. The owner is reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure their details are kept up to date. Even if a dog is microchipped, you can be fined if your dog is not wearing the correct Identification. Telephone numbers are not compulsory but can be very helpful in returning your dog to you in an emergency. Engraved tags can be purchased from the Kennel Club website.*

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## Exercise 2 - Collar, Lead and Equipment

The object of this exercise is that the handler learns how to put on and take off the collar, lead and equipment safely. It is important that the collar, lead and equipment are suitable for the type of dog and that the handler is able to fit them correctly.

*Note: A dog that becomes frightened can back out of a loose collar. Examiners can reserve the right to insist that the handler secures the dog in a safer manner if the equipment used is deemed inadequate. An additional lead could be used in this instance. With effect from 6th April 2016 please refer to the GCDS Guidelines for full details of collars, leads and equipment permitted.*

## Exercise 3 - Walk on Lead

The object of this exercise is for the dog to walk on a loose lead without distractions. The handler and dog should walk for approximately 30 paces and include some turns and should demonstrate that this can be done without undue inconvenience and the dog pulling forward or back.

*Note: Competition heelwork is not the aim. An occasional tight lead does not necessarily result in classification "Not Ready". The dog is permitted to walk on either side of the handler.*

## Exercise 4 - Control at Door/Gate

The object of this exercise is for a handler and dog to walk through a gate/doorway under control and on a lead. The dog should not pull or be pulled through the gate/doorway. When this exercise commences the dog can be in any position and should wait while the handler opens the gate/door and then proceeds to go through. The handler should then recall the dog through the gate/ doorway. While the handler secures the gate, the dog should remain settled.

## Exercise 5 - Controlled Walk Amongst People And Dogs

The object is for the handler to remain in control of their dog whilst walking amongst people, dogs and distractions. The handler should walk for approximately 30 paces and include some turns. They should demonstrate that this can be done without undue inconvenience and the dog pulling forward or back. The dog should behave in a quiet, relaxed and controlled manner whilst the handler holds a conversation for one minute. The dog may adopt a stand, sit or down position at this time. This is not a stay exercise.

*Note: Competition heelwork is not the aim. An occasional tight lead does not necessarily result in classification "Not Ready". The dog is permitted to walk on either side of the handler.*

## Exercise 6 - Stay on Lead for One Minute

The object of this exercise is that the dog will stay on the spot while the handler moves away for one minute. The handler should remain in sight. The handler should place the dog on lead in any position of their choice i.e. stand, sit or down. Upon instruction, having quietly dropped the lead, the handler will move a distance of five paces away for a period of one minute. The test is completed when the handler returns to the dog's side and picks up the lead.

*Note: This exercise is a test to see if the dog will stay in one place without changing position. The dog must stay in the position that it is left in. Dogs must not be placed on beds or individual mats.*

## Exercise 7 - Grooming

The object of this exercise is to test the handler's ability to groom the dog without a struggle. Grooming performed should be relevant to the individual dog, conducted on a lead and should include all parts of the dog's body. Handlers are required to provide their own grooming equipment.

*Note: Any signs of aggression or nervousness while grooming the dog will be deemed "Not Ready". It is permissible for small dogs to be groomed on a table.*

## Exercise 8 - Examination of the Dog

The object of this exercise is to demonstrate that the dog will allow inspection of its body by its handler. This exercise will be carried out on a lead. The examiner will be shown how a handler can examine their own dog. The dog is to be placed for inspection of its mouth, teeth, throat, eyes, ears, stomach, tail and feet when standing, sitting or lying down as required. Other than mild avoidance, the dog should allow inspection without concern.

*Note: The lead must be held securely by the handler throughout the exercise. The lead, collar and equipment should not be used to restrain the dog. If required the Examiner can insist that if applicable a head collar or body harness is removed if it interferes with the inspection. It is the responsibility of training officials to ensure that only suitable dogs take part in this exercise. This is a most important exercise and will require considerable care, expertise and patience on the part of the instructor.*

## Exercise 9 - Return to Handler

The object of this exercise is for a dog to return to its handler when instructed to do so. The handler will release the dog from its lead, play with or without a toy, or in some other way distance themselves 10 paces away from the dog. When directed to do so, the handler should call the dog. Having rejoined, the dog should stop close to the handler in any position and the lead shall be replaced.

*Note: The handler is to be advised not to let the dog run uncontrolled in open spaces such as woods, parks and farmland.*

## Exercise 10 - Responsibility and Care

The object of this exercise is to test the knowledge of the handler on specific subjects relating to owning a dog. The Examiner should construct questions based on section one of the Bronze Responsibility and Care section. Topics include – a dog's needs, illness and responsibilities of ownership. The questions should not be phrased in an ambiguous manner and where necessary, examiners should rephrase the same question in an attempt to bring out the correct answer from the handler. At the start of each training course, in addition to the Description, handlers should be given a copy of the Canine Code. There should be a discussion period during which the importance of correct socialisation can be explained, problems discussed and advice given on choosing a suitable collar, identity disc, lead and other equipment ( Head Collars and Body Harnesses).

*Note: Only one numbered item may constitute a question. The handler should be able to give three out of six correct answers from section one of the Responsibility and Care section.*



## RESPONSIBILITY AND CARE (SECTION ONE)

**The handler should be able to give three out of six correct answers from Section One only. Additional sections are included in the Canine Code.**

### A DOG'S NEEDS

A dog owner must be aware of a dog's needs and they are:

1. Water - A dog's needs a constant supply of clean drinking water.
2. Meals - One or two meals a day are suitable for most dogs.
3. Food- Feed the dog regularly a nutritionally balanced diet.
4. Exercising - All dogs need exercise and where possible they should be taken to places where they can safely run free appropriate to their age.
5. Family Unit- All dogs need to be able to feel part of the family unit.
6. Leadership - A dog knows there will be leaders within the family unit. Leaders should not include the dog.
7. Company and affection – Dogs need company and affection without being excessive.
8. Sleeping Arrangements – A dog needs its own place to sleep, so provide somewhere suitable.
9. Register your dog with a veterinary practice and discuss with your veterinary surgeon the necessary vaccinations, frequency of boosters, worming, flea prevention and health checks.
10. Stimulation – Dogs need to be stimulated through play, training and interaction.

### ILLNESS

A dog should display the same demeanour from day to day. So should any of the following occur you should seek veterinary advice:-

11. A dog with a normal healthy appetite refuses to eat and appears unwell.
12. A normally active dog becomes lethargic or does not want to get up.
13. A dog that vomits and shows signs of distress.

14. Its motions are very loose, it has diarrhoea, or is straining.
15. There is loss of blood.
16. A dog that has heatstroke.
17. A dog is unconscious.
18. A dog that is having or has had a fit or seizure.
19. A dog that appears lame or shows discomfort in one or more limbs.
20. A dog that is showing discomfort by excessive external irritation.

*Note: It is recommended that you research the symptoms of common illnesses and ailments in dogs. Looking at the individual circumstances, some conditions will require more urgent attention.*

### RESPONSIBILITIES OF OWNERSHIP

21. Any dog in a public must wear the name and the address of the owner either inscribed on the collar or name or plate/ disc attached to it.
22. Ensure your dog is legally compliant by having a microchip.
23. A dog needs its own bowl and should never feed from your plate.
24. Regular examination by rubbing your hands over the dog's body will check for burrs, thistles, ticks or lumps and bumps.
25. Your dog needs to be regularly groomed and kept clean. Never let the dog's coat become matted.
26. Bathing is sometimes necessary and should be done in moderation.
27. Do not allow your dog to become a nuisance to people and other dogs. Ensure close control is maintained at all times.
28. Some dog owners keep their dogs on a lead in a public space for a reason. Do not allow your dog to approach. Respect other dog owners and their dog's.
29. Remember that not everyone is a dog lover and may dislike even a friendly approach from your dog.
30. Where there are other animals such as horses or livestock keep your dog on a lead but pay close attention to the country code. Always consider the safety of yourself and your dog.

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31. Be mindful of other users of public spaces.
32. Your dog should not be allowed out on its own.
33. Do not allow the dog to foul in inappropriate places. Be mindful of legislation regarding dog fouling in your area. If fouling does occur, always clean up after the dog and dispose of considerately.
34. Remember that continual barking is a nuisance to others.
35. Obey the rules of eating establishments and never take the dog into the kitchen or food preparation area.
36. Do not leave your dog unattended if you stay away from home or go on holiday.
37. Your vet and your own contact details should be known by the person looking after your dog. Consider the identification details of your dog if it is away from home for any reason.
38. Discuss neutering with your veterinary surgeon to avoid unwanted puppies. Make an informed decision.
39. If you want your bitch to have puppies, seek the advice of a veterinary surgeon.
40. Be aware of toxic substances such as plants, foods and chemicals in your dog's environment. Take appropriate steps to avoid exposure.

*Note: The above is intended as a guide only and should not be considered as an exhaustive list of a dog owner's responsibilities.*



## DOG IDENTIFICATION IN THE UK



The Control of Dogs Order 1992 states that 'any dog in a public place should wear the name and address of the owner either inscribed on the collar or a name plate or disc attached to it'.

With effect from 6th April 2016, it is a legal requirement in England, Scotland and Wales for dogs to be microchipped.

**Note:** After 6th April 2016, all puppies must be microchipped by the time they are 8 weeks old.

To find out more visit [www.gcds.org.uk](http://www.gcds.org.uk)

Note: Examples of the information required on a tag/disc/plate or on the dog's collar are suggested below.



**Side 1**

Complies with the law



**Side 1**

Complies with the law



**Side 2**

Note: Side 2 information is optional but highly recommended by the Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme



**THE KENNEL CLUB**  
*Making a difference for dogs*

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