



Canine Good Citizen

Manual

Effective from 1 July 2024



Mission Statement

Creating well-mannered dogs and
encouraging responsible owners.

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General Provisions

Purina Pro Plan Canine Good Citizen (“CGC”) is a programme that tests dogs in simulated everyday situations. It identifies and rewards dogs with the issue of a Dogs New Zealand-endorsed qualifying certificate.

The purpose of CGC programme is to ensure that our favourite companion, the dog, can be a respected member of the community because it is trained and conditioned to act with good manners in the home, public places and in the presence of other dogs and animals.

An optional preliminary assessment programme termed Canine Good Basics will also be available through your local Canine Good Citizen Training Provider.

CGC training is fun and useful. Through CGC you and your dog can establish a closer bond and your dog will have the added benefit of knowing how to please you. The CGC assessment is not a competition and does not require that you and your dog perform with “competitive” precision, but it should show the dog’s willingness to obey instructions given from the handler, demonstrate basic training and consistently display good temperament.

Dogs New Zealand (“DNZ”) (<http://www.dogsnz.org.nz/goodcitizen.html>) has fully endorsed the Canine Good Citizen programme. CGC is administered by a voluntary Committee with staff support from DNZ head office Private Bag 50903, Porirua 5240.

Participant Information

DOGS NEW ZEALAND

- To sit an assessment, there is a fee payable to DNZ (see link above). Clubs may include an administration fee over and above the DNZ fee when advertising assessment entry fees. Clubs collect all fees and make payment to DNZ.
- As of May 2023, this fee is calculated at \$20 per dog.
- Certified dogs will be recorded onto a DNZ database. This will be published on the DNZ website and is also available to CGC registered clubs, Assessors, and Local Authorities on request.
- A dog officially classified menacing or dangerous by breed/type or deed by a Local Authority cannot become a registered Canine Good Citizen.
- A dog that holds an existing CGC qualification (at any level) that is officially classified menacing or dangerous by breed/type or deed or found to be in breach of the CGC standards will be removed from the DNZ database listing.
- Publication of this removal will be acknowledged in the DNZ *NZ Dog World* magazine.
- An owner may request to have the CGC qualification revoked, and the dog removed from the CGC register if they feel the dog is has behaved in breach of the CGC standards, provided no formal complaint has been laid.
- Once de-registered a dog will not be eligible to be re-assessed.

REGISTERED CLUBS AND TRAINING PROVIDERS

- Assessments for CGC can only be held by DNZ CGC registered societies or in special circumstances, by prior agreement, under the auspices of the CGC Committee.
- Training classes identified as being CGC focused can only be advertised as such by CGC registered clubs and CGC recognised training providers.
- **The hosting club shall notify the CGC secretary at least 3 weeks in advance** of any impending CGC assessment including details of contracted assessor/s, levels, dates, and proposed location/s. Email notifications to be sent to cgc@dogsnz.org.nz
- Unless otherwise requested, this information will be advertised on the DNZ website.

- The hosting club may request in writing, when submitting assessment forms, that certificates for individual handlers be sent to them, rather than direct to participants.
- Passed assessment papers will be recorded and dogs registered on the DNZ database.
- The order of the exercises in this manual is not necessarily the order they will be undertaken during an assessment.
- Assessors are not to assess dogs they have assisted in the training of, at the level the dog is being assessed for.
- The manner the assessment day is run will be by mutual agreement between the Assessor(s) and the hosting society. However, whenever multiple assessors are used within a level, each Assessor is responsible for assessing all the exercises for each candidate.
- If only one assessor is contracted, they are not to be requested to assess greater than twenty-five candidates per day.
- Volunteer people and dogs used in the assistance of these exercises should not be well known to the handler and dog sitting the assessment. The assessor is to be satisfied that (to the best of their knowledge) the dogs that are used have safe and reliable temperaments.
- Children may assist as volunteers for the hosting society. However, whenever children participate in any exercise, they must be suitably instructed and supervised.
- As dogs are being physically handled during a CGC assessment, wipes or wash gel should be provided by the club and are recommended to be used between dogs.
- The hosting society shall send all CGC assessment papers (whether passed or failed) to DNZ along with a fee of \$20 per candidate. Send to CGC Registration, New Zealand Kennel Club, Private Bag 50903, Porirua 5240.
- The hosting society/assessor, by mutual agreement, shall conduct these exercises in either a dog-controlled area or a public area. Definitions are as follows:
 - **“dog controlled area”** = the hosting society’s own grounds, or an area which the hosting society uses on a regular basis for their members.
 - **“public area”** = public park, local shops, mall or local retail business (e.g., dairy, petrol station, take-away bar), any footpath along a road, wide grass verge along a roadway, public carpark, sports field (as the exercise is described, either empty or as a sporting event may be taking place, provided the presence of dogs is permitted by local bylaws) or in an area that the dogs and handlers do not regularly train. Public areas used must be appropriate for the exercise being conducted.
 - **All national laws, by-laws and conditions must be observed.**

HANDLERS

Please read carefully the list of behaviours on page 11 which are *NEVER ACCEPTABLE (at all levels) during the CGC exercises.*

- **You should be aware**, if an assessor witnesses unacceptable behaviour from a dog at any time during the day of assessment, that dog will have failed all levels it is being assessed for that day and may also have a previously awarded certification revoked if a formal complaint is laid.
- Handlers must respect the rights, dignity and worth of fellow candidates, trainers, assessors, officials, and spectators.
- A handler’s abuse of any dog on the grounds by verbal and/or physical intimidation is not acceptable, and the handler may be asked to leave the grounds before assessment is complete as a result.
- A handler may be asked to leave the grounds if they fail to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner relating to honesty, language, temper, or punctuality during the assessment.
- Membership of the DNZ or a local dog training club is not mandatory, but we would recommend the services of a CGC registered Club or registered training provider to assist in the teaching of the CGC exercises, in which case, that club’s membership criteria would apply.

- Handlers over the age of 12 may qualify a dog in a CGC assessment. However, if the handler is under the age of 16, a supervising adult must be present at the assessment. That supervising adult may not assist the handler in a manner that directly affects their performance during assessment exercises.
- Handlers must **always** carry some form of poop scoop (e.g., plastic bag/s).
- Handlers may talk to and encourage the dog to perform the exercises during the assessment, unless otherwise instructed by an assessor, or as the exercises are described in this manual.
- While doing any walking exercises, the position of the dog and its distance from the handler can change, so long as good control is still evident. "Competitive-type" heelwork is not the aim. The lead must remain loose, and the dog is to follow the same direction as the handler. There should be a clear change of direction on the corners, with no resentment from the dog at having to follow.
- On any instruction to stop, the handler and dog must come to a complete stop within three paces of the instruction being given. If the dog is told to sit, the dog must do so. If the dog is not told to go into any particular position, the dog must remain stationary but must not move forward until the handler does.
- Handlers should review all exercises they plan to be assessed for, to identify equipment they are required to supply.
- Where a dog has a medical condition or permanent disability, a vet's certificate will be required to state that the dog is fit to sit CGC.
- Where a dog has specialist grooming requirements contrary to the normal expectations of a tangle free coat the handler should provide written proof of this at the assessment.
- Handlers are advised to become familiar with the Local Authority rules in their area. There may be questions from these asked in the Responsibility and Care sections at an assessment.
- During all assessments, food or toy carried in a pocket or bum-bag is permitted, as long as it is present during all exercises, and it is out of sight of the dog. Please see a specific level's requirements on when food or toy are allowed to be given to a dog **during** an assessment exercise.
- Rewarding of the dog while it is not directly under assessment will be permitted, provided this does not interfere with the performance of another candidate.
- Over the four levels, the dog must have qualified under at least **two** different assessors.
- Should there be a single CGC level passed which has been co-signed by two assessors, they shall be considered as one, and at least one other level sat and passed must have a different assessor's name thereon.
- Dogs may not be required to remain in the testing area between exercises.

CANDIDATE DOGS

- Only dogs over the age of 12 months of age can sit the CGC programme, but training can be started with young puppies.
- A dog that is officially classified menacing or dangerous by deed or registered as a member of a prohibited breed by a Local Authority are not currently eligible for CGC certification.
- No bitches in season are allowed on or near assessment areas.
- A dog may only sit a **maximum of two consecutive levels at any one assessment event** or within 5 calendar days where this event takes place over more than one day.
- Over the four levels, a dog must have qualified under at least **two** different assessors.
- Dogs must pass **all** exercises set in each level before attempting the next eligible level.
- At all times and at all levels dogs are required to wear a current local registration tag.

ASSESSORS

Please carefully read the list of behaviours on page 9 which are *NEVER ACCEPTABLE (at all levels) during the CGC exercises.*

All CGC Assessors must be financial members of the New Zealand Kennel Club.

Dogs NZ Canine Good Citizen Committee Responsibility

As Dogs NZ's code manager for ensuring responsible and respectful dog ownership both in the home and public environments, congruent with everyday activities, it is the Canine Good Citizen Committee's responsibility to ensure that those Assessors it recommends for appointment on to each Panel are a credit to the code.

Listing on Panels

Only an Assessor qualified to assess a level of CGC and listed on the appropriate CGC Assessors Panel may be contracted to conduct CGC assessments.

Assessors on the CGB Panel may assess Canine Good Basics only.

Assessors on the CGC Foundation/Bronze Panel may assess Canine Good Basics and CGC Foundation and Bronze exercises only.

Assessors on the CGC Silver/Gold Panel may assess Canine Good Basics and all levels of Canine Good Citizen.

Assessor Standards

Assessors are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner. They will remain courteous, respectful, and open to discussion, feedback, and interaction.

CGC exercises are primarily for the dog, so particular note is to be made of the dog's reactions to the various situations, i.e., they are to assess the dog's temperament to the best of their ability.

A second attempt of an exercise for a specific dog may be allowed once at the assessor's discretion. Reasons for invoking this discretion and outcome of second attempt must be recorded on the handler's assessment sheet and included in the assessor's report.

If any one or more exercise is not passed within an assessment, that constitutes a failure of the entire level. When the dog re-sits the assessment, that dog must perform all exercises successfully.

An Assessor's decision for any exercise assessed shall be deemed to be final, except in cases of fraud or misrepresentation.

Maximum Numbers

The maximum number of dogs an Assessor may assess per day is twenty-five.

A dog can only sit a maximum of two consecutive levels at any one assessment event.

Conflict of Interest

Assessors are not to assess dogs they have assisted in the training of, at the level the dog is being assessed.

Multiple Assessors

More than one assessor may be contracted on any one assessment day. The manner the assessment day is run will be by mutual agreement between the assessor(s) and the hosting club (i.e., a level each, or a shared responsibility within each level).

If an Assessor is supervising a probationary assessor in any one level, they may choose to co-assess in the following manner:

Both Assessors to act as one (i.e., jointly watch and confer on each dog throughout the entire level).
Both assessors must sign the Assessment form.

NOTE: Under no circumstances can assessors share the individual exercises within a level, for each dog (e.g., for a given dog, one assessor watches the walking, temperament exercises; the other assessor watches the stay exercise).

Local Bylaws

An assessor may request a hosting club to provide them with a copy of their Local Authority bylaws in respect of dog control legislation in their (and/or surrounding) area(s).

Assessment Sheets

Assessors are to complete an Assessment Sheet for each candidate, making certain to specifically indicate whether a dog has “Achieved” the exercise or not. In the case of not having achieved an exercise, they must provide a brief reason why. Leaving this section blank is unacceptable. This information is used for statistical purposes and development of the programme.

Unacceptable or Harsh Handling

If the Assessor believes a handler is restricting their dog in any manner, the assessor may ask the handler to cease the restriction.

If an Assessor should witness any actions of the handler or their dog that is inconsistent with CGC standards, the handler shall be asked to leave the grounds. Any assessment of the dog's performance during an assessment prior to this, on the day, shall be nullified.

In the event of harsh handling, aggression being indicated by a dog, or a serious breach of CGC standards occurring, a formal report should be forwarded to Dogs NZ.

An Assessor may discontinue their assessment of a dog, if it is felt that a handler is failing to conduct themselves in a courteous manner relating to honesty, language, temper, punctuality, or abuse of the dog. In such instances, the handler may be requested to leave the grounds.

Dog Health Issues

If, on inspection, an assessor is concerned that there may be an issue with a dog's health, they should discuss this with the handler to determine whether an ongoing assessment is reasonable. An Assessor may also ask to see a vet's certificate before accepting the dog for assessment.

Appointment to the Panels

Although the following procedures and conditions are a guide, they will generally be strictly applied and be departed from in exceptional circumstances only with the express approval of the Canine Good Citizen Committee or the Executive Council of Dogs NZ

Criteria

The criteria for appointment to any panel shall be a minimum requirement before any application can be considered. In addition, the Canine Good Citizen Committee and the Dogs NZ Executive Council shall consider the following criteria:

- The contribution of the applicant to the canine world in relation to the status of the appointment sought.
- The demeanour and behaviour of the applicant at canine activities.
- When applicable and possible, the standard and conduct of assessing exhibited by an applicant at previous appointments.
- When applicable, the nature and status of previous appointments.
- The personal qualities of the applicant.
- The integrity of the applicant.
- Any other relevant matters.

Term of Appointment

Appointments to Canine Good Basics and Canine Good Citizen Panels will be effective from the date set by the Executive Council upon fulfilling the requirement for listing and shall be for a continuous period until resignation or dismissal occurs.

Disciplinary Action

An Assessor can be removed or suspended from the CGB or any CGC Panel by a Regional Disputes Committee as a disciplinary measure pursuant to New Zealand Kennel Club Rules.

Canine Good Basics Panel

Assessors on the Canine Good Basics (CGB) Panel may Assess Canine Good Basic exercises only.

New appointments to the CGB Panel need to be recommended by the Canine Good Citizen Committee who shall determine the competency and standards of each applicant. The CGC Committee shall then in turn refer their own recommendations to the Dogs NZ Executive Council.

Applications to be an "Approved" CGB Assessor must be submitted to the CGC Committee, along with all required supporting documentation.

Appointment onto the CGB Panel shall be subject to CGC Committee and Dogs NZ EC endorsement.

Canine Good Citizens Foundation/Bronze Panel

Applicants for appointment on to the CGC Foundation/Bronze Panel must have:

- Successfully completed all CGC Committee assessment procedures. Assessment activities shall include:
 - An open book examination on relevant sections of the CGC Manual.
 - Completion of a minimum of two Foundation and one Bronze Assessment appointments under the supervision of a CGC Silver/Gold Panel Assessor, from who favourable reports are received.
- Received endorsement from the Dogs NZ CGC Committee.
- Received endorsement from the Dogs NZ EC.

Canine Good Citizens Silver/Gold Panel

Applicants for appointment on to the CGC Silver/Gold Panel must:

- Approved Dogs NZ Foundation/Bronze Panel Assessors.
- Have been the principle CGC Assessor for two Foundation and two Bronze Assessment events.
- Have successfully completed all CGC Committee assessment procedures. Assessment activities, which shall include:
 - An open book examination on relevant sections of the CGC Manual.
 - Completion of a minimum of two Silver and one Gold Assessment appointments under the supervision of a CGC Silver/Gold Panel Assessor, from who favourable reports are received.
- Received endorsement from the Dogs NZ CGC Committee.
- Received endorsement from the Dogs NZ EC.

Assessor Examinations

Coordinator

An appointed person of the CGC Committee shall act as coordinator of CGC Assessor examinations.

Setting Examinations

The CGC Committee shall appoint a suitable person to construct appropriate examination papers.

Contents of Examination

The examination shall be open book.

The examination paper shall be of 30 minutes duration (with a prior reading time of 10 minutes) and consist of 20 multi choice answer questions from the CGC Manual relevant to the panel being applied for.

Pass Mark

A pass mark is eighteen (18) correctly answered questions. i.e., a maximum of two incorrectly answered questions.

Date and Time of Examination

Written examinations shall ideally be done and supervised on the first day of a probation appointment being conducted. If this is not possible, before the first probationary assessment is conducted, the CGC Committee shall set a date and time and place for the examination. They shall also appoint a suitable independent member of Dogs NZ to supervise the examination.

Candidates who do not pass the examination shall have one opportunity to re-sit the examination within a twenty-eight-day period. The date, time and location of any re-sit shall be decided by the CGC Committee coordinator.

If a second consecutive failure is recorded, the candidate shall not be permitted to sit another examination for a minimum period of six months.

Re-count

Within 21 days of being advised of the results of a theoretical examination, candidates may apply for a review and re-count of their examination by another CGC Committee appointed CGC Silver/Gold Assessor, upon payment of \$20-00.

The review and re-count, once given, shall be final and no further correspondence shall be entered into.

RESERVE ASSESSORS

- Reserve assessors may be contracted prior to the assessment day, or (where events have evolved beyond the control of the hosting club), on the day of assessment.
- If possible, a reserve assessor's name should be advertised prior to the assessment day.
- A reserve assessor may be utilised if a handler requests a different assessor to the original assessor(s) contracted, to comply with the requirement, "*Over the four levels, a dog must have qualified under at least **two** different assessors.*"

Complaints Procedure

- If at any time an assessor witness's conduct by a CGC qualified dogs that is a serious breach of CGC standards, they should lodge a formal complaint.
- Should there be a breach of the terms and guidelines (as set out in this manual) with regard to a handler/dog/CGC registered club/assessor, any witness or participant may lay a complaint in writing.
- For further information on the specific procedure to lay a complaint and all necessary forms, please go to the CGC page of the Dogs New Zealand website (<http://www.dogsnz.org.nz/goodcitizen.html>) or refer to relevant page in Resources section.
- The complainant is required to complete a CGC Complaint form attaching any relevant supporting evidence (e.g. photos, signed eye witness accounts, vet's invoice, Local Authority report, etc.) and submitting it to the CGC Committee.
- Please note that all material supplied as part of the complaint procedure may be circulated to all parties involved.
- Written complaints, disputes or any other issues relating to CGC should be addressed to

Attention: CGC
c/ Dogs New Zealand,
Private Bag 50903,
Porirua 5240

Or may be sent electronically to cgc@dogsny.org.nz

In the event of a formal complaint procedure being upheld the dog may also have all previous certifications revoked.

Purina Pro Plan Canine Good Citizen – Foundation

Effective from 1 January 2023

Requirements for all assessments

AT ALL TIMES during the CGC exercises (at all levels) the dog **MUST**:

✓ wear a current registration tag.	✓ Excluding electronic or odour emitting types, wear some form of correctly fitted restraint (e.g., flat collar, slip chain, head collar, body harness).
✓ be attached to a lead held by the handler unless otherwise directed by an assessor, hosting club or as the exercises are described in this manual.	

The following behaviours ARE NEVER ACCEPTABLE (at all levels) during the CGC exercises:

X Display of fear.	X Trying to run away.
X Display of aggression.	X Excessive vocalisation including barking.
X Anxiety	X Lunging towards any distractions, other dogs, strangers, or assessor.
X Over exuberance.	X Regular pulling on, or a constant tight lead, whether held by the handler, someone else or while being tied up.
X Jumping on any person (handler, stranger, assessor).	X Inappropriate fouling, such as on more than one occasion, and/or handler does not immediately collect/remove any faeces if deposited by the dog at any time.
X Notable resentment or reluctance to walk steadily with the handler, and/or requiring constant commanding.	

Note: Food, clicker, toy rewards or lures may be allowed to be carried by the handler but must be fully hidden during exercises, unless specifically stated in “Acceptable”. Rewarding of the dog while it is not directly under assessment will be permitted, provided this does not interfere with the performance of another candidate.

All exercises for Canine Good Citizen **Foundation** will be conducted in a **dog-controlled area**, such as the hosting club’s own grounds, or an area which the hosting club uses on a regular basis for their members.

Exercises

1. Appearance, Handling and Responsibility

Purpose: The handler demonstrates they can care for and handle their dog. It shows the handler's knowledge of responsible dog ownership.

The dog can be handled by someone other than their handler (e.g. dog groomer, vet), without the dog protesting.

a. Responsibility and care

There will be either a written or an oral test consisting of **eight** questions primarily from the fifty questions and answers supplied on the Dogs NZ CGC Web page.

Note: If a participant has applied to undergo this assessment in conjunction with another. Then a singular modified examination containing the number of questions for the highest CGC Level applied for shall be given.

Questions may also be included from the Dog Control Act, Local Authority by-laws and from Local Authorities within the handler's Regional Authority area.

The handler must answer **six** out of the eight questions correctly.

Not acceptable

X Less than six correct answers.

b. Public cleanliness and identification

The handler must produce to the assessor some form of 'poop scoop' (e.g. plastic bags).

Excluding electronic prong or odour emitting types, all dogs must wear some form of correctly fitted restraint (e.g. flat collar, slip chain, head collar, body harness).

A current identification/registration tag issued by a Local Authority, specific to the dog wearing it, must be attached to the dog.

Not acceptable

X Dog is not wearing a current Local Authority registration tag.	X Dog is not wearing a correctly fitted restraint.
X Handler does not immediately collect/remove any faeces if deposited by the dog at any time while in the assessment area.	X Handler does not have form of 'poop scoop'.

c. Examination of the dog by handler

The dog may be standing, sitting or lying down (handler's choice).

Other than mild avoidance, the dog should allow inspection by its handler.

The handler is to examine the dogs:

- mouth and teeth by pulling back the lips
- eyes
- ears
- tail/hind quarters
- front and hind paws (including the pads)

Acceptable

✓ Mild avoidance, with eventual acceptance.

Not acceptable

X Constant refusal to allow examination.	X Display of fear, cringing, hiding or avoidance.
X Threatening behaviour, aggression, growling, biting, or mouthing.	X Over exuberance or jumping up.

d. Grooming and inspection of the dog by the assessor

The handler to supply the comb or brush commonly used on the dog.

If it is a small dog, it may be placed on a table for inspection and grooming, but only with the handler's permission. The dog must be safe and comfortable being on the table.

The assessor shall handle and examine the dogs:

- mouth by pulling back the lips to expose the teeth
- front paws
- hind paws
- ears
- tail/hind quarters

The assessor (should they so wish) may hold the dog's collar while carrying out the inspection.

The dog need not remain in a static position while being handled but should be calm and easy to touch and examine.

The assessor then:

- Softly combs or brushes the dog, in a calm and natural manner and may request guidance from the handler if the coat of the dog is to be brushed in a manner specific to that breed or coat type. The dog must appear to be in good condition, i.e. clean, healthy, alert and of proper weight (refer guidelines – Responsibility and Care section).

The dog's coat should be free of tangles or knots unless specifically required under the breed standard for this type of dog. (Refer Handler guidelines).

The handler may continue to hold the lead and may talk to the dog, praise it, and give encouragement throughout.

Where a dog has a medical condition or permanent disability, a vet's certificate will be required.

Acceptable

✓ Mild avoidance, with eventual acceptance.

Not acceptable

X Constant refusal to allow examination.	X Display of fear, cringing, hiding or avoidance.
X Threatening behaviour, aggression, growling, biting or mouthing.	X Over exuberance or jumping up.
X Anything that shows neglect of the dog's health such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Matting of coat– Balding.– Over or underweight.	X Any other health condition that cannot be explained by the handler.

2. Food Manners

Purpose: The dog is to display good manners while a person (this can be an assessor or a stranger) is eating human food (e.g., biscuits, chippies, sandwiches).

Similarly, the dog is to be calm and mannerly when the handler is giving the dog its meal and allow itself to be touched without aggression of any kind.

a. Person eating

The person eating is to be seated while some of the food remains visible on their lap.

The dog should remain in position directed by the handler while the person eats.

While the handler holds the dog on lead, the person is to eat some of the human food no further than **one and a half** metres from the dog (i.e. the assessor should be satisfied that the dog has been taken close enough to be aware that the person is eating).

The person is to continue eating in a natural fashion and may talk to the handler, with the dog in a static position, until directed by the assessor for the handler and dog to move calmly away.

Acceptable

✓ Sniffing.	✓ Looking.
✓ Drooling.	

Not acceptable

X Jumping up or any movement in an attempt to take the food.	X Any begging behaviour.
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b. Dog eating

The dog is given a command to remain still (sit, stand or down – handler's choice).

In the dog's vicinity, handler to put a reasonable portion of the dog's usual food (to be provided by the handler) into the bowl. There should be sufficient food available to allow the handler time to conduct this exercise.

The handler is then to place the bowl on the ground, no closer than **half** a metre and no further than **one** metre in front of the dog. If necessary, the handler is permitted additional voice "wait" or "leave it" commands while putting the food on the ground and to keep the dog in a staying position.

Handler returns to stand beside the dog.

There will be approximately a **five** second pause, at which time the handler may release the dog to eat the food.

While the dog is eating the food, the handler is to first pat the dog and then to hold/touch the food bowl and/or move it a short distance while the dog continues eating. Handler is **not** to take the food bowl away from the dog.

If the dog does not attempt to eat any of the food or approach the bowl when released. The assessor may at their discretion require the handler to present an alternate food and/or chewable item that the dog does find more palatable for the exercise to be completed as directed above.

Acceptable

✓ Sniffing.	✓ Looking.
✓ Drooling.	✓ Dog does not eat the food.

Not acceptable

Handler must have a constant tight lead to stop dog from reaching food.	X Dog breaks position before handler's command to release.
Dog displays aggressive behaviour when handler touches dog.	X Dog freezes or shows tense body language when handler touches dog.

3. Accepting a Friendly Stranger

Purpose: The dog will allow its handler and a friendly stranger to approach and interact with each other, without concern.

The dog to walk on lead, remaining by the side of the handler.

The handler/stranger will:

Walk towards each other.

Halt approximately 1 metre apart; greet each other in a friendly manner and hold a conversation **for at least 30 seconds.**

Shake hands at the **end** of the conversation.

Resume on their way, with the dog walking beside its handler.

Points to Note:

- The stranger will ignore the dog.
- The dog may move slightly toward the stranger, but the lead must remain slack.
- Any position adopted by the dog is acceptable.
- If required, the handler may give occasional extra commands provided the dog is responsive and/or one mild lead correction to keep the dog close to the handler.
- The dog must immediately comply with the handler's commands.
- If the lead has been used to correct the dog, the lead must immediately be made slack as the dog returns to the handler's side.

Acceptable

✓ Occasional extra commands for the dog to remain close to the handler.	✓ Change of position.
✓ Mild interest, e.g. looking, tail wagging.	✓ One mild lead correction.

Not Acceptable

X Display of aggression or anxiety.	X Frequent commands for the dog to remain close to handler.
X More than one lead correction	X Over exuberance or jumping up.
X A constant tight lead.	

4. Accepting Being Patted By a Friendly Stranger

Purpose: The dog can accept being patted by a friendly stranger, who shall be a different person to the one that was used in Exercise 3.

The dog to walk on lead, remaining by the side of the handler.

The handler and stranger will:

Walk towards each other.

Halt a comfortable speaking distance apart.

Greet each other in a friendly manner and hold a short conversation for at least 30 seconds.

THEN

The stranger will ask if they may pat the dog:

After giving permission, the handler is to explain how they would like their dog to be patted.

Stranger will pat the dog, following the handler's instructions.

THEN

Handler and stranger will continue on their way, in opposite directions, with dog remaining beside the handler.

Points to Note:

- **While the handler and stranger are talking** to each other the dog may move slightly forward toward the stranger, but the lead must remain slack.
- The handler may give occasional extra commands and/or one mild lead correction to keep the dog close to the handler.
- The dog must comply with any handler commands.
- If the lead has been used to put the dog back beside the handler, the lead must immediately be made slack once the dog returns to the handler.
- While the stranger is patting the dog, the dog is allowed to:
 - Make a small and calm forward movement towards the stranger.
 - Present a single front paw in a “shake hands” gesture.

Acceptable

✓ Change of position.	✓ Occasional extra commands.
✓ Mild or friendly interest, e.g. looking, tail wagging, licking.	✓ Small, calm, slight forward motion while being petted.
✓ One mild lead correction	

Not acceptable

X Frequent commands to control the dog.	X Display of aggression or anxiety.
X Dog not responsive or ignores handler's commands.	X Jumping up or over exuberance.
X A constant tight lead.	X More than one lead correction

5. Walk On Lead Through a Door/Gate In a Controlled Manner

Purpose: The dog does not push, pull, or impede the handler in any way, while going through a door/gate.

The handler and dog are to:

Approach a closed door or gate.

Open the door or gate while the dog waits politely.

Pause with the door or gate wide open before proceeding through and invite the dog to follow.

Close the door or gate behind them, keeping the dog calm and controlled throughout.

THEN

Walk a short distance beyond gate to collect a bag containing bulky articles (represents collecting shopping or carrying small suitcase).

Repeat the process above to return through the door or gate with bag.

Close the door or gate behind them the second time and walk away for at least another 6 paces in an orderly manner on a loose lead.

Acceptable

✓ Walking beside or just behind the handler walking through the door/gate.	✓ Mild interest in the bag being collected, e.g. sniffing.
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Not acceptable

X Causing interference to the handler's progress through the opening.	X Does not walk beside handler in a controlled manner.
X Rushing ahead of the handler through the gateway.	X Inappropriate urination – such as on more than one occasion or on personal property.

6. Restrained Return To Handler

Purpose: To determine the dog's temperament and willingness to accept being held by the collar and subsequent return to its handler immediately when called while dog is off the lead.

Handler is to:

Leave the dog with Assessor who shall be holding the dog's collar in an unobtrusive manner.

Walk away from the dog and stop at least 10 paces from the dog, turn and face their dog.

Upon being requested to do so, call their dog to them.

Attach the lead to the dog and walk away for at least another 6 paces in an orderly manner.

Acceptable

✓ Two commands (maximum) allowed to call.	✓ Voice praise (dog is approaching) and/or patting (when the dog has arrived). However, be careful the praise/patting does not elicit any jumping up, as this could fail the exercise.
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Not acceptable

X The handler is unable to attach a lead safely.	X Ignoring the handler's command to come more than once.
X Does not walk beside handler in a controlled manner.	X Does not come to handler directly (i.e. the dog is distracted away from the handler or stops while on its way to the handler).
X Jumping up.	

7. Walk On Lead

Purpose: Dog can walk beside handler in a calm and mannerly way without pulling

The handler will be directed where to walk with their dog using placement of cones, signs and/or verbal instructions.

The route walked will include a minimum of:

- One Right turn
- One Left turn
- One About turn
- At least one stop while on the walk
- A stop at the end

Points to Note:

- The exact duration of this exercise may be adjusted by the assessor for an individual dog to allow them to fully assess the dog's responses and establish that the relationship between dog and handler is worthy of the description of a controlled loose lead walk.
- While the goal is to have a loose lead with a J shape throughout the exercise, it is accepted that the lead may occasionally straighten as long as the hands remain by the person's sides and are not extended - which would indicate pulling - and that the dog shows responsiveness to verbal commands and changes of direction.
- While walking, the dog:

Remains consistently by the side of the handler. Left side is preferred, although the right side is allowed.

Is to be reasonably attentive to the handler and respond to the handler's movements and changes of direction without resentment.

May change its distance and position relative to the same side of the handler, so long as good control is evident and it continues to follow the handler's course rather than its own.

Close heeling associated with competitive Obedience is **NOT** required.

When required to stop, this will be indicated with a sign or spoken command. Handler and dog are then required to cease any further forward motion, with the dog being permitted to remain in whatever position it chooses or as commanded by the handler. After a short pause no less than 5 seconds, they are then permitted to move forward again.

The dog should move off only on handler's command, with no pulling ahead.

While walking, the handler:

May talk to and encourage the dog.

May be required by the assessor to lengthen their lead and/or relax hand position to demonstrate a loose lead walk is being maintained.

Acceptable

- ✓ Dog remains in a stationary position at an instruction to stop but it then subsequently changes to a lower position - i.e. sits if standing, lies down if sitting.

Not acceptable

X Jumping up at handler while walking.	X Regular correction from the handler.
X Dog weaving from side to side of handler.	X A constantly tight, or regular pulling on the lead.
X Lunging towards any possible naturally occurring distractions, people, or other animals.	X Notable resentment or reluctance to walk steadily with the handler, especially when handler changes direction.
X Dog ignores or does not respond to handler's commands.	X Inappropriate urination – such as on more than one occasion or on personal property.

8. Controlled Walk Through People and Distractions

Purpose: Demonstrates that the dog can move about in pedestrian traffic in a calm manner and can cope with any unexpected distractions that it may encounter.

The dog and handler will be asked to undertake a short loose lead walk while negotiating at least pedestrian traffic as well as 2 additional distractions.

These should be encountered in a similar fashion for each dog on the day.

Distractions must include:

Pedestrian traffic.

A loud or sudden noise element.

A moving element.

Startling distractions will be presented more than 2 metres from the dog.

The list provided in 8b below is indicative, not prescriptive.

Pedestrian traffic (must be included)

The dog is to be walking on a loose lead, close to handler and remain there throughout this exercise.

Left side is preferred, although the right side is allowed.

The dog passes through and close to a group of no less than three, but no greater than eight persons.

This may be requested more than once, especially if the group is small.

Distractions

- A jogger running. First, towards the dog, then from behind the dog. Simulates quick and possibly, unexpected, movement.
- A good-natured jostling and loud talking by a small crowd. Simulates excessive crowd noise and animated movement.
- People passing in both directions while wearing hats, sunglasses and/or carrying large objects or an open umbrella. Simulates the varied nature of a stranger's profile that the dog may encounter.
- A person passing the dog, in both directions while pushing a stroller, scooter, pram or trolley. Simulates real life encounters on city streets.
- As the dog approaches a chair, it is suddenly knocked over. Simulates a sudden movement and noise from what was previously a stationary object.

Acceptable

✓ A slightly startled reaction with rapid recovery.	✓ Shows a mild interest in the people or curiosity in distraction(s).
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Not acceptable

X Lunging towards (or jumping up at) the chosen distraction(s).	X Regular correction from the handler.
X Dog weaving from side to side of handler.	X Regular pulling, or a constantly tight lead.
X Display of fear, aggression, or shyness toward the chosen distraction(s).	X Notable resentment or reluctance to walk steadily with the handler.

9. Stay Tied On Lead

Purpose: To show that the dog can be tied up and remain calm and accepting while the handler is a short distance away.

The dog is to be tied to a fixed object, at a sensible distance from other dogs that may also be tied up. The handler may leave the dog in any position (e.g. sit, down or stand).

The handler will be asked to leave the dog and move off at least 20 paces away, for a period of **two** minutes.

Handler is to converse with other people and may move around but must remain in sight of the dog for the entire time of **two** minutes.

Upon the handler's return, the handler is to untie the dog and walk the dog away for approximately **six** paces, in a controlled, calm manner.

Point to Note:

- When dogs present for any CGC tie-up exercise wearing a head collar, slip/check collar (chain or webbing), half-slip collar or any device that may restrict breathing or tighten around the neck it must be removed and replaced with a flat collar with a buckle or clip, or a body harness for the exercise in keeping with recommended best practice in the Code of Welfare: Dogs 2010.

Acceptable

✓ While the handler is away from the dog, they may give three only extra commands (if required) to settle the dog.	✓ The dog changes its body position but remains calmly in the place it was left.
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Not acceptable

X Does not walk away beside handler in a controlled manner.	X Excessive greeting when handler returns to the dog (i.e., jumping up).
X Lunging towards any distractions, other dogs, strangers, or assessor.	X Any resistance to being tied up.
X Over exuberance.	X Jumping up.
X Panic.	X Hiding or avoidance.
X Trying to run away.	X More than three commands required to settle the dog.
X Excessive vocalisation including barking.	X Tight lead

10. Meeting a Stranger and Their Dog

Purpose: To demonstrate that the dog can meet and behave quietly around an unfamiliar person and their dog.

Handler and dog will be walking in a controlled manner towards another person and their dog - which will also be under control.

This person and their dog **shall not be well known** to the dog being tested.

The two handlers will approach and stop no greater than 1 metre from each other, shake hands and exchange a pleasant conversation for not less than 30 seconds.

Upon indication from the assessor, the two handlers will shake hands again and continue in the original directions past each other.

Both dogs will be expected to remain beside their respective handlers.

Points to Note

- The dog should remain at handler's side, any position acceptable. Change of position allowed provided the dog **remains close to their handler**.
- The lead must remain slack.
- Should the dog attempt to move from the handler's side, the handler may give occasional extra commands provided the dog is responsive and/or one mild lead correction to keep the dog beside the handler.
- When told to, the dog must immediately comply with the handler's commands.
- The lead must immediately be made slack once the dog returns close to the handler.

Acceptable

✓ Occasional extra commands, for the dog to remain close to the handler.	✓ Change of position, but dog must remain close to the handler.
✓ Mild or friendly interest, e.g. looking, tail wagging, licking.	✓ The dogs may show a casual interest in each other (e.g. tail wagging, air sniffing)
✓ Quiet displays of friendly behaviour, providing the dog remains attentive to the handler.	✓ Mild anxiety and avoidance (e.g. eye avoidance, lowered body posture).

Not acceptable

X Any display of aggression.	X Lunging or over exuberance towards any distractions, other dogs, strangers, or Assessor.
X A constant tight lead.	X Handler must give frequent commands for the dog to remain close to the handler's side.
X Does not walk beside handler in a controlled manner.	X Display of anxiety.
X Excessive vocalisation including barking, whining or howling.	X More than one lead correction

11. Supervised Separation

Purpose: To ascertain that the dog can be left **with another person** not well-known to it and will maintain its good manners while the handler goes out of sight.

The handler and dog are to approach another person and/or settle their dog; hand the lead over and then walk out of sight of the dog.

The person holding the dog will remain approximately in the same place (i.e. no walking around).

Calming signals and additional instructions can be given to the dog, but the person holding is not to elicit play or excitement in any way.

Handler is to remain out of sight for no more than **four** minutes, after which they will be instructed to return, thank the person, and then take the lead back.

Handler and dog are to walk quietly away.

Acceptable

✓ Mild anxiety (e.g. an initial pulling towards leaving handler), but when person holding the lead calms the dog the dog responds accordingly.	✓ Mild greeting behaviour between handler and dog upon the handler's return. (Note: No jumping up at handler allowed).
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Not acceptable

X Dog is in obvious distress.	X Jumping up (handler or holder).
X Notable resentment or reluctance to remain quietly with the person.	X Any display of aggression, anxiety, or over exuberance.
X Lunging towards any other dogs, strangers, or Assessor.	X Excessive vocalisation including barking, whining, or howling.

12. Playing With the Dog

Purpose: To show that the handler has control over the dog when it is excited by play (i.e. the handler can start and finish a game).

When instructed to do so, the handler will commence to play with the dog.

Should a fetch game be chosen, the throw must not be excessive, and the dog must return immediately to the handler (either upon command or by its own choice).

When instructed to do so, the handler will ask the dog to stop the play and, if a toy is used, give this up to the handler, either directly to hand or dropped on the ground.

After playing the handler is to hold the toy in a way that is clearly visible to the dog.

The handler should re-attach the lead (if necessary) while the dog remains calm.

This exercise may be done either on lead or off lead.

The handler and dog are to walk quietly away at the end of the exercise.

Points to Note

Should the dog be off lead, the handler must be confident the dog will remain within the vicinity of the handler or will immediately return. Failure by the dog to return to the handler would be considered a failure of this exercise.

It is acknowledged that some dogs do not have a "play drive" and will not engage with toys. Should this be the case, the handler is to demonstrate this lack of play drive. Should the assessor be satisfied there is a lack of play drive, despite serious effort, then the handler and dog will not be penalised.

Acceptable

✓ Non-aggressive play growling.	✓ Up to three commands allowed for dog to give up its toy.
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Not acceptable

X After three commands, failure to release toy to handler's hand or drop on ground.	X If toy dropped on the ground, the dog does not allow the handler to pick the toy up.
X Dog refuses to respond to commands after the play has ceased.	X Dog does not return to handler immediately, either upon command or by itself.
X Dog lunges at or grabs the toy from handler's hand.	



Purina Pro Plan Canine Good Citizen – Bronze

Effective from 1 July 2023

Requirements for all assessments

AT ALL TIMES during the CGC exercises (at all levels) the dog MUST:

✓ wear a current registration tag.	✓ Wear some form of correctly fitted restraint (e.g., flat collar, slip chain, head collar, body harness).
✓ be attached to a lead held by the handler unless otherwise directed by an assessor, hosting club or as the exercises are described in this manual.	

The following behaviours ARE NEVER ACCEPTABLE (at all levels) during the CGC exercises:

X Display of fear.	X Trying to run away.
X Display of aggression.	X Excessive vocalisation including barking, whining, or howling.
X Anxiety.	X Lunging towards any distractions, other dogs, strangers, or assessor.
X Over exuberance.	X Regular pulling on, or a constant tight lead, whether held by the handler, someone else or while being tied up.
X Jumping up (handler, stranger, assessor).	X Inappropriate fouling such as on more than one occasion or on personal property.
X Notable resentment or reluctance to walk steadily with the handler.	

Note: Food, clicker, toy rewards or lures will be allowed to be carried by the handler but must be fully hidden during exercises, unless specifically stated in “Acceptable”. Rewarding of the dog while it is not directly under assessment will be permitted, provided this does not interfere with the performance of another candidate.

The following exercises for Canine Good Citizen **Bronze** will be conducted in a **dog-controlled area**, being the hosting society’s own grounds, or an area which the hosting society uses on a regular basis for their members.

Exercises

13. Responsibility and care

Purpose: The handler shows their knowledge of responsible dog ownership.

There will be either a written or an oral test consisting of **nine** questions primarily from the fifty questions and answers supplied on the Dogs NZ CGC Web page.

Note: If a participant has applied to undergo this assessment in conjunction with another, then a singular modified examination containing the number of questions for the highest CGC Level applied for shall be given.

Questions may also be included from Local Authority by-laws, Dog Control Act and those from Local Authorities within the Regional Authority area.

The handler must answer **seven** out of the nine questions correctly.

The handler must also be able to produce a form of poop scoop and show the dog is wearing its current local registration tag.

Not acceptable

X Less than seven correct answers.

14. Food manners

Purpose: While the dog is eating, the dog will allow a stranger to pass by, walk around then approach and touch the dog without protest in the vicinity of the handler.

The dog is given a command by the handler to remain still (sit, stand or down – handler's choice).

Visible to the dog, assessor to put a reasonable portion of the dog's usual food in a bowl (both provided by the handler). There should be sufficient to allow the Assessor time to conduct this exercise.

Assessor is then to place the bowl on the ground, no closer than **half** a metre and no further than **one** metre in front of the dog. Handler is permitted additional voice "wait" or "leave it" commands while the Assessor is putting the food on the ground to keep the dog in a staying position.

After a **five** second pause, indicated by the Assessor, handler will cue a release for the dog to eat the food.

While the dog is eating the food, the assessor is to circle behind the handler and dog, pause, then approach the dog and pat the dog around the shoulders. While moving, approaching, and touching the dog, Assessor may speak quietly to the dog.

Assessor is **not** to touch or attempt to take the food bowl away from the dog.

If the dog does not attempt to eat any of the food or approach the bowl when released. The assessor may at their discretion require the handler to present an alternate food and/or chewable item that the dog does find more palatable for the exercise to be completed.

Acceptable

✓ Air scenting or sniffing.	✓ Looking.
✓ Drooling.	✓ Dog does not eat the food.

Not acceptable

X Handler must use their lead to stop dog from reaching food.	X Dog breaks position before handler's command to release.
X Dog displays aggressive behaviour, when assessor passes, approaches or touches dog.	X Dog freezes or shows tense body language when assessor passes, approaches, touches food and/or bowl.

15. Staying Still and Return To Handler

Purpose: To determine the dog can stay in one place until otherwise commanded by the handler to come.

Handler is to:

Place their dog into a down or sit position; take off the lead and tell the dog to stay.

Walk away from the dog and stop approximately 15 paces from the dog.

Turn and face their dog and pause.

Upon being requested to do so, call their dog to them.

Re-attach the lead to the dog and then walk away for approximately another 6–10 paces in an orderly manner.

Acceptable

✓ Dog is allowed to move posture position (i.e. if left in a down, can move into a sit or if left in a sit, may move into a down) as long as it does not move from the spot it was told to stay in.	✓ May repeat the recall command only one more time, after initial call.
✓ Voice praise (dog is approaching) and/or patting (when the dog has arrived). However, be careful the praise/patting does not elicit any jumping up, as this could fail the exercise.	

Not acceptable

X Dog moves entirely off the stay position before being called.	X Handler is unable to attach a lead quickly and safely when dog has returned.
X Dog remains in the place after having been commanded twice to come.	X Jumping up or dog is not demonstrating a controlled manner when or after lead is re-attached.
X Does not come completely to handler.	

16. Stationary Vehicle Control

Purpose: The handler has the dog under control while getting in and out of a vehicle, and the dog remains calm when engine is running.

a. Into a vehicle

The dog (on lead) will be taken towards a vehicle of the handler's choice.

Handler will open the door of the vehicle, which will remain open for **10** seconds while the dog remains at the handler's side.

When requested so to do, the handler has a choice of either commanding the dog to jump (or walk up a ramp) into the vehicle, or they may lift their dog into the vehicle.

Handler will then detach the lead and secure their dog (e.g. by use of a car harness, or confinement in a caged area).

Handler then closes the door through which the dog had access.

Handler then gets into the vehicle's driver's seat and Assessor into the vehicle's front passenger seat. After the doors are closed, the handler starts the vehicle's engine, with the vehicle remaining stationary.

When requested to do so by the Assessor, the handler (driver) will stop the engine and then both handler and Assessor shall exit the vehicle.

Acceptable

✓ Mild excitement (e.g., tail wagging)	✓ Multiple and encouraging commands.
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Not acceptable

X If lifted into the vehicle by the handler, the dog struggles, tries to avoid the handler or	X Fearful or aggressive reaction to anything inside or outside the vehicle.
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appears to be under stress.	X Jumping up on people during exercise.
X If dog leaps into vehicle before being told by handler.	X Dog is not made safe and secure.
X Any signs of stress or panic.	X Excessive vocalisation including barking, whining, or howling.

b. Out of a vehicle

The vehicle's access door through which the dog has entered is opened by the handler. Handler then detaches any physical restraint used to secure the dog (e.g. car harness) or opens the confined area (e.g. cage door opened) and attaches lead to the dog.

Dog is to remain in the vehicle for no less than **10** seconds, during which verbal commands are permitted but the lead must remain loose and not be used to keep the dog in the vehicle.

When requested to do so by the Assessor, the handler shall allow their dog to exit the vehicle.

Dog to remain calmly close to the handler in a position of the handler's choosing while they close and lock the vehicle.

Handler to then walk 6–8 paces away from the vehicle, with dog remaining under control and calm at handler's side.

Points to note

If the dog is told to jump, it must comply immediately on command. If lifted, the dog should remain still and calm while the handler gets a safe hold on the dog for the lift.

If the handler is unable to drive, a driver is to be nominated by the handler (which shall not be the assessor). Handler to sit in a passenger seat (rear or front – assessor's choice).

Acceptable

✓ Mild excitement (e.g. tail wagging) but no jumping up behaviour allowed).	✓ Encouraging commands.
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Not acceptable

X If lifted out of the vehicle by the handler, the dog struggles, tries to avoid the handler or appears to be under stress.	X Dog leaps out of vehicle before being told by handler.
X Dog is not "under control" at vehicle's side or when walking away.	X Over exuberance and/or excessive vocalisation including barking.

17. Control At Steps

Purpose: The dog does not push, pull, or impede the handler in any way, while going up and down a set of steps or stairs.

With the dog on lead, the handler is to:

Approach the bottom of a set of steps in a controlled walk.

Proceed up the steps.

Turn around when safe to do so, and then proceed back down the steps.

At the bottom of the steps, proceed another 6 paces in a controlled manner.

Points to Note

If steps are not available in the society's dog-controlled area, this exercise may be conducted in a public area.

- It is preferable that the dog and handler use a set of steps or stairs that consist of at least four steps in each direction.

- Should the assessor believe the exercise is insufficiently tested due to a short set of steps, the exercise may be required to be negotiated twice in immediate succession.
- At all times the handler must maintain a controlled walk throughout the exercise.

Acceptable

✓ Dog walks beside or just behind the handler when proceeding up and down the steps.	✓ Handler pausing at the bottom or top of the steps before proceeding.
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Not acceptable

X Towing or dragging the handler up or down the steps.	X Dog causes interference to the handler's progress up and down the steps.
X Jumping up on the handler.	X Regular pulling on, or a constantly tight, lead, whether going up or down the steps or proceeding with walk.
X Over exuberance.	

Exercise 18 for Canine Good Citizen **Bronze** will be conducted in a quiet-to-medium busy **public area**. All Local Authority and highway codes and conditions must be observed.

18. Walk On Lead and Reaction To Distractions In a Public Area

Purpose: Demonstrates that the dog can walk in a controlled manner and is confident and calm when faced with possible common distracting situations while out and about in public.

a. Walk on lead

The dog and handler will be asked to have a controlled walk in a public area for a period of **at least 5 minutes**.

Be directed to cross a road, with a halt prior to each crossing.

Be required to be passed by at least one person walking quietly in each direction.

Encounter a small group of two or three people walking past in an animated and noisy fashion.

Encounter other distractions, either pre-arranged or naturally occurring.

Points to Note

- Dog remaining on the left side is preferred for walking on the lead, but right side is permitted.
- When required to halt, position of the dog is optional.

b. Distractions

While out on the walk, a minimum of **two** of the following events are required to have occurred, with at least one from section i. and at least one from section ii.

Section i:

Sudden or Unusual Noise.

- Car horn sounds (of short duration, at least 10 metres away, and **ideally** not **behind** the dog).
- Sudden opening and closing of a car door, as the dog and handler passes by.
- Person dropping a shopping bag or other object, which makes enough noise to cause a thud or rattle, from just behind the dog.

Section ii:

Unexpected or Unusual Movement:

- Person pushing a pram passing in both directions.
- Person passing on a scooter or skateboard at no less than 2 metres from the dog.
- Jogger passing in both directions.
- Person using crutches, wheelchair, or walker, towards the dog.
- Person riding a bicycle, passing in both directions.
- Person wearing a large hat, bulky coat, or similar passing in both directions.
- Passing calmly by an area with other animals (not dogs) visible to the dog. For example, ducks, pigeons, sheep, cows, or horses.
- Fund raising Bar B Que.
- Performing group. For example, buskers, dancers.
- Noisy exhaust.
- Road works and machinery.

Acceptable

✓ Shows a mild interest or curiosity in surroundings and/or distractions.	✓ Slight startle reaction but responding immediately to handler's command to remain with them.
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Not acceptable

X Jumping up at handler or any people.	X Regular lead correction from the handler.
X Lunging towards any possible naturally occurring or engineered distractions, people, animals, or equipment.	X Notable resentment or reluctance to walk steadily with the handler.
X Dog weaving from side to side of handler.	X Display of anxiety or aggression or over exuberance.
X Regular pulling on, or a constantly tight, lead.	X Excessive vocalisation including barking, whining, or howling.

19. Café Experience

Purpose: Demonstrates that the dog will remain in a set location beside handler while handler is seated at a table, of sufficient size to comfortably accommodate all participants.

Handler shall approach and sit at a table along with three other persons who may either also simultaneously approach the table or be already seated.

Handler is to command the dog to adopt a down position beside where they are seated.

All persons at the table are to engage in dialogue with one another for a minimum duration of **one** minute.

At the completion of **one** minute with all persons sitting at the table, a stranger is to encircle the group at the table before placing an item of food and a beverage for each person seated in front of them and then leave.

Once all food and beverages have been served, those seated at the table are to either continue with their dialogue and/or partake of the food and beverage delivered for a further **two** minutes.

At the completion of **two** minutes, each person seated may leave the table with their dog either simultaneously or individually.

Participants to walk away, with dogs on lead, from each other for a minimum of six paces.

Point to Note:

- Multiple handlers, up to a maximum of two, undertaking this exercise, may at the discretion of the Assessor, do so simultaneously. If there are two handlers being simultaneously assessed, then they shall be considered as part of the group of four.
- Handlers are permitted to bring a mat or dog bed for their dog to lie on if desired.
- Any of the people sitting at the table who are **not** being assessed may **not** be permitted to have a dog with them.
- Assessor or appointed person shall indicate when a required minimum time has elapsed.

Acceptable

✓ Shows a mild interest or curiosity in surroundings and/or distractions.	✓ Slight startled reactions but responding immediately to handler's command to remain with them.
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Not acceptable

X Jumping up at handler or any people.	X Jumping up or any movement as an attempt to take the food.
X Lunging towards any possible naturally occurring or engineered distractions, people, animals, or equipment.	X Regular correction being required from the handler to remain in position.



Purina Pro Plan Canine Good Citizen – Silver

Effective from 1 January 2023

Requirements for all assessments

AT ALL TIMES during the CGC exercises (at all levels) the dog MUST:

✓ Wear a current registration tag.	✓ Wear some form of correctly fitted restraint (e.g., flat collar, slip chain, head collar, body harness).
✓ Be attached to a lead held by the handler unless otherwise directed by an assessor, hosting club or as the exercises are described in this manual;	

The following behaviours ARE NEVER ACCEPTABLE (at all levels) during the CGC exercises:

X Display of fear.	X Trying to run away.
X Display of aggression.	X Excessive vocalisation including barking, whining or howling.
X Anxiety.	X Lunging towards any distractions, other dogs, strangers or assessor.
X Over exuberance.	X Regular pulling on, or a constant tight lead, whether held by the handler, someone else or while being tied up.
X Jumping up on any person (handler, stranger, assessor).	X
X Notable resentment or reluctance to walk steadily with the handler.	

Note: Food, clicker, toy rewards or lures will be allowed to be carried by the handler but must be fully hidden during exercises, unless specifically stated in “Acceptable”. Rewarding of the dog while it is not directly under assessment will be permitted, provided this does not interfere with the performance of another candidate.

The following exercises for Canine Good Citizen **Silver** will be conducted in a **dog controlled area**, being the hosting Society’s own grounds, or an area which the hosting Society uses on a regular basis for their members.

Exercises

20. Responsibility and Care

Purpose: The handler shows their knowledge of responsible dog ownership.

There will be either a written or an oral test consisting of **10** questions primarily from the fifty questions and answers supplied on the Dogs NZ CGC Web page.

Note: If a participant has applied to undergo this assessment in conjunction with another. Then a singular modified examination containing the number of questions for the highest CGC Level applied for shall be given.

Questions may also be included from Local Authority by-laws and those from Local Authorities within the Regional Authority area.

- The handler must answer **eight** out of the 10 questions correctly.
- The handler must also be able to produce a form of poop scoop and show the dog is wearing its current local registration tag.

Not acceptable

X Less than eight correct answers.

21. Examination Of the Dog By a Stranger (handler at a distance)

Purpose: Demonstrate that the dog can be handled by someone else other than their handler (e.g. dog groomer, vet), without undue objection, with the handler a short distance away.

Note: Handler may opt to have their dog placed on a table or raised platform for the examination. However, the dog must be safe and indicate no discomfort at being on an elevated level.

During the examination, the dog may be standing, sitting, or lying down.

After placement for examination, the handler is to instruct their dog to remain in the position placed and move away a distance no less than five paces but remain facing their dog.

Another person (who may be the Assessor or another designated person) shall approach the dog and examine:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| ▪ Eyes | ▪ Ears |
| ▪ Mouth and teeth by pulling back the lips | ▪ Front and hind feet including pads |

Should they so wish, the examiner may hold the dog's collar while examining.

After examination by the stranger, the handler will be requested to return to their dog.

Acceptable

✓ Shift in posture only.	✓ Mild friendly greeting (e.g. tail wagging).
✓ Mild avoidance (e.g. turning head away), but eventual acceptance of being handled.	✓ Praise and encouragement for the dog to stay.

Not acceptable

X Constant refusal to allow examination.	X Jumping up.
X Dog moves entirely off the stay position.	X Display of fear, aggression, growling, over exuberance, panic, cringing, avoidance, excessive barking.
X Biting or protest mouthing.	

22. Return To Handler (with distractions)

Purpose: The handler's dog returns to the handler, despite distractions being present (e.g. other people and dogs).

Handler with their dog on lead are to approach and stop at a group of no less than six people. Two persons in the group shall also have a dog on lead.

Following **one** minute of conversing with the group, handler shall unclip the lead from their dog and, while leaving their dog in place, walk briskly away from the group.

After no less than 10 paces from the group, while continuing to walk away from the group, the handler shall be instructed to call their dog to return to their side.

Once dog has returned to handler's side, handler is to reattach the lead to their dog and walk a further six paces on lead.

Acceptable

✓ Mild and friendly interest in people and dogs present in the group (no jumping).	✓ Up to three commands for dog to return to handler.
✓ Dog voluntarily moves away from group to re-join its handler before the handler calls it.	✓ Voice praise (dog is approaching) and/or patting (when the dog has arrived).
Be careful that any praise/petting does not elicit jumping up, as this could fail the exercise.	

Not acceptable

X Failure to return to handler's calling, after three commands.	X Dog runs past handler and does not come to handler's side or calmly allow lead to be attached.
X Any sign of aggressive behaviour while amongst the group (people or dogs).	X Jumping up.

23. Stop the Dog

Purpose: To ascertain that the handler's dog, while on the move **towards the handler**, and at a distance from the handler, promptly obeys a command to stop and remain in place, until the lead is reattached by the handler.

*This exercise is intended to simulate an emergency situation where **the dog is running towards a hazard between the handler and the dog.***

At a distance no less than 30 metres, there is to be a person walking a dog on a lead. No other distractions are required.

The dog is either

- held by another person 15 metres away and called by the handler facing the dog
- left in a Stay/Wait position, handler walks away 15 metres, turns around and calls the dog.

Upon instruction from the assessor and when the dog is no closer than 10 metres from the handler, the handler is to command the dog to stop and stay, in any position. The dog must be seen to respond promptly to the command to stop.

The dog must remain in the stopped area for at least 30 seconds, then the handler goes over to the dog and reattaches the lead.

Handler and dog are then to walk forward a further 6 paces.

Acceptable

✓ If the dog is moving at speed, allowance will be made for the dog to stop (i.e., the dog is seen to be responding to command).	✓ Verbal praise. However, be aware, if the dog moves from the stop position because of the praise, it will have failed this exercise.
✓ Dog moves posture once stationary but does not move from the area it stopped at (e.g. the dog stopped moving in a stand position, but then it subsequently lay down).	✓ Up to two stay or wait commands once the dog has stopped.
✓ Verbal praise and a pat allowed when reattaching the lead.	✓ Two commands allowed to Stop the dog.

Not acceptable

X Dog does not remain in the stopped area, either before or as the handler is returning.	X Dog does not allow handler to reattach the lead.
X Dog is seen to be avoiding the handler.	X Failure to respond to stay or wait after two commands.
X Failure to stop at a distance. Note: Even if the dog complies after the command, the dog must be at least six metres away from the handler when it stops.	X Failure to comply promptly to a stop on command.

Exercise 24.a and 24.c for Canine Good Citizen **Silver** will be conducted in a **dog controlled area**, being the hosting society's own grounds, or an area which the hosting society uses on a regular basis for their members.

Exercise 24.b for Canine Good Citizen **Silver** will be conducted in a quiet-to-medium busy **public area**. The preferred area would be the local roadways within the vicinity of the society's grounds.

The distraction person walking their dog should use local footpaths or (if there are no local footpaths) a safe wide grass verge is acceptable. Alternatively, the person and their dog may be driven to such an area where there are footpaths.

All Local Authority and highway codes and conditions must be observed.

24. Advanced Vehicle Control

Purpose: Dog is seen to be relaxed and under control while getting in and out of a vehicle and while the vehicle is moving.

a. Into a vehicle

Dog (on lead) will be taken towards the handler's vehicle. Only under exceptional circumstances accompanied by an acceptable explanation to the assessor, will an alternative vehicle to the handlers be permitted.

Handler is to open the door of the vehicle and leave open for a time of no less than **20** seconds. During this time, the dog is to remain at handler's side.

Upon request by the Assessor to do so, the handler shall command the dog to enter the vehicle. This may be achieved by commanding the dog to jump into the vehicle, lifting the dog into the vehicle, or use of a ramp.

Handler is to detach the lead, making certain that the dog is both safe and secure (e.g. by use of a car harness, or confinement of dog in a caged area).

Handler is to close the dog's access vehicle door.

Assessor enters the vehicle to sit in the front passenger's seat while handler gets into the driver's seat of the vehicle. After all doors have been closed, the engine is then started.

Point to Note

- If the handler is unable to drive, an alternative driver may be nominated by the handler (who shall not be the Assessor). After the dog is secured, handler is to either sit in the front or rear passenger's seat (as directed by the Assessor).

Acceptable

✓ Mild excitement (e.g. tail wagging) but no jumping up behaviour allowed).	✓ Multiple and encouraging commands.
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Not acceptable

X To anything inside or outside the vehicle, display of fear, aggression, panic, stress, growling, over exuberance, excessive barking.	X If lifted into the vehicle by the handler, the dog struggles, tries to avoid the handler or appears to be under stress.
X If dog leaps in to/out of vehicle before being told by handler.	X Dog is not made safe and secure.

b. Vehicle is moving

Once the vehicle has been started, handler is to drive the vehicle for a time and distance directed by

the Assessor.

Vehicle is required to pass, at least one, person who are walking along the street that the vehicle is being driven along.

No other planned distractions are required.

Acceptable

✓ Mild interest in what is going on outside (i.e., standing up looking out window, tail wagging).	✓ The occasional calming command from handler. However, dog must be seen to react to handler's instruction.
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Not acceptable

X Signs of stress or panic.	X Lunging within the vehicle.
X Strong reaction to anything inside or outside the vehicle,	X Handler must continuously command dog to settle.
X Any display of fear, aggression, panic, stress, growling or over exuberance.	X Excessive vocalisation of any kind.

c. Out of a vehicle

Upon parking in a safe location, handler is to open the vehicle's door to the area where the dog is confined.

Handler is then required to remove physical restraint (e.g. car harness) or open any confined area (e.g. cage door).

Dog is to remain in the vehicle for a time of no less than **20** seconds.

Upon request by the Assessor to do so, the handler shall attach a lead to their dog and either instructor assist the dog to exit the vehicle.

Dog to remain calm in a controlled position while the handler closes and locks the vehicle securely.

Handler then walks six paces away from the vehicle with their dog remaining under control and calm at handler's side.

Acceptable

✓ Mild excitement (e.g. tail wagging) but no jumping up behaviour allowed).	✓ Multiple and encouraging commands.
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Not acceptable

X If lifted out of the vehicle by the handler, the dog struggles, tries to avoid the handler or appears to be under stress.	X Dog leaps out of vehicle before being told by handler.
X Dog is not "under control" at vehicle's side or when walking away.	X Over exuberance and/or excessive barking.

Exercise 25 for Canine Good Citizen **Silver** will be conducted in a medium busy **public area**.

The preferred area would be a large, grassed area, such as a local park not normally used by the hosting society. This exercise must be conducted at a safe distance from any vehicle traffic.

All Local Authority conditions must be observed.

25. Staying Still and Return To Handler In a Public Area.

Purpose: To determine the dog stays in one place, even though handler is moving away from their dog. Dog can then come to handler while the handler continues to move.

Handler is to put the dog into a down or sit position before removing the lead and commanding the dog to stay.

Handler then walks briskly away from their dog for a distance of no less than 10 meters, after which, while still continuing forward, handler calls their dog to return to the handler's side.

Dog must return to the handler in a reasonably direct manner.

Upon the dog reaching the handler's side, handler to stop and reattach the lead before continuing onwards in a calm and controlled manner for 6 further paces.

Acceptable

✓ Once called, only one minor stop or distraction allowed.	✓ Voice praise and/or patting allowed.
✓ Two commands (maximum) allowed to call the dog, which shall include the "minor stop" or "distraction".	✓ When in the stay position, dog moves posture, but does not move from the stay area.

Not acceptable

X The handler is unable to attach a lead quickly and safely.	X More than two commands necessary for the dog to return to handler.
X Jumping up.	X Dog does not return to handler at all.
X When dog is reattached to the lead, dog does not walk in a controlled manner.	X The dog is distracted or stops on its way back to the handler and does not return directly after handler's allowable second command to come.
X Dog moves off the stay position before it is told to come.	Be mindful that any praise or patting does not elicit any jumping up, as this could fail the exercise.

Exercise 26 for Canine Good Citizen **Silver** will be conducted in a busy **public area**. The preferred area would be a local shopping area or outside a shopping mall. The dog must be on lead while conducting this exercise. All Local Authority conditions must be observed.

26. Calm and Controlled Behaviour While In a Busy Public Area.

Purpose: In an area of high-volume traffic and pedestrians, the handler is observed to be in control of a dog that can remain calm and stress free:

While walking.

While remaining in one place.

When a stranger asks to pat the dog.

Points to Note

- If (before the requisite time lapse of this exercise, for any reason whatsoever) dog shows signs of stress (as deemed by either the handler or the assessor) the handler is to leave the area immediately. In such instances the exercise shall be deemed to have not been completed.
- Safety of the dog, the public and the handler paramount.
- Dog is to remain on lead the entire time.

a. Walking

Handler and dog are to be taken to a public area with high volume traffic and pedestrians.

Handler and dog to walk along paved streets for a period of **at least five minutes**. The route may negotiate the same sections of street more than once.

During the walk handler and dog are required to safely make at least one street crossing.

If during the walk the handler and dog pass an area where children are known to be present such as a sports field or playground, all local authority conditions are to be observed.

b. Staying in one area

At some point on the walk, handler and dog are to stand still, out of the way of pedestrians, but still in a busy public area. Dogs may remain in any position but must remain beside the handler. No tight leads shall be permitted.

Handler and dog are to remain in this area for a minimum of **three** minutes.

c. Accept being touched by a stranger

Should a member of the public show an interest in the handler's dog, the handler is to ask that person if they would like to pet their dog.

If the member of the public agrees to pet a dog, the handler of the dog is to instruct any such person on the method to do so.

Any dog petted is to accept a stranger's touching in a friendly and reasonably calm manner.

Should no member of the public show an interest in petting any of the dogs after a time lapse of **three** minutes, then an effort should be made to encourage a member of the public to do so.

Acceptable

✓ Calming signals and instructions.	✓ Mild interest in its surroundings.
✓ Friendly overtures (e.g. tail wagging, licking, lifting one paw in a "shake hands" gesture).	✓ Dog shifts posture position but must remain close to handler.

Not acceptable

X Display of fear.	X Biting
X Display of aggression.	X Inattention.
X Mouthing.	X Panic.
X Growling.	X Cringing.
X Threatening behaviour.	X Hiding or avoidance.
X Any physical correction from the handler.	X Trying to run away.
X Over exuberance.	X Excessive barking.
X Jumping up (handler, stranger). Remember no jumping up allowed.	X Lunging towards any distractions.
X Regular pulling on, or a constant tight lead.	X Notable resentment or reluctance to walk steadily with the handler.
X If the dog is requested (by either assessor or handler) to be removed from the area before the requisite time is up.	

27. Café Experience (effective 1 July 2024)

Exercise 27 for Canine Good Citizen Silver will be conducted in a **public area**. The preferred area would be a local cafe or bar that has a good-sized outside or inside area where guests are allowed to bring dogs. The dog must be on a lead throughout this exercise. All Local Authority conditions must be observed.

Purpose: Demonstrates that the dog will remain in a set location beside handler while handler is either seated at a table or seated with a group on the ground, with food and beverages for all participants already arrayed (picnic setup).

Setup:

Handler shall approach and sit at a table of sufficient size to accommodate all participants. Participants may either simultaneously approach the table or be already seated.

Alternatively, the handler shall approach an area of ground where three other persons may already be sitting, or simultaneously be approaching.

Then:

Handler is to command the dog to adopt a down position beside where they are seated.

All persons are to remove food and beverage from a receptacle and place the items in the centre of the table or group before engaging in dialogue with one another for **one** minute.

At the completion of **one** minute all persons are to commence consuming their food and beverages while a stranger walks past with their dog at no less than two metres and no greater than 3 metres from the group.

After a further **two** minutes, a different stranger (other than the one who walked the dog), is to approach the group and converse with them for a period of no less than **one** minute before walking away.

Following a further **one** minute, all persons are to leave the group either simultaneously or individually and walk away six paces.

Points to Note:

- To accommodate any arrangements made with a public café, this exercise may be conducted either on the same day all the other exercises are assessed or, on a separately arranged day in collaboration with the café. Ideally the same Assessor would be used. However, a pre-arranged co-Assessor, to assess all who would have otherwise been assessed for all the other exercises, may for this exercise be acceptable.
- Multiple handlers, up to a maximum of **four**, undertaking this exercise, may at the discretion of the Assessor, do so simultaneously. If there are greater than four dogs being assessed, then these must be conducted as individual groups not exceeding four, at individual times.
- If any of the persons in this exercise are **not** being assessed, the inclusion of their dog is optional (and at the discretion of the Assessor).
- Assessor or appointed person shall indicate when a required minimum time has elapsed.

Acceptable

✓ Shows a mild interest or curiosity in surroundings and/or distractions.	✓ Slight startled reactions but responding immediately to handler's command to remain with them.
✓ Wriggling while down, shifting hips, or changing from sphinx to lie-on-the-side, or vice-versa.	

Not acceptable

X Jumping up at handler or any people.	X Jumping up or any movement as an attempt to take the food.
X Lunging towards any possible naturally occurring or engineered distractions, people, animals, or equipment.	X Regular correction being required from the handler to remain in position.

Purina Pro Plan Canine Good Citizen – Gold

Effective from 1 January 2023

Requirements for all assessments

AT ALL TIMES during the CGC exercises (at all levels) the dog **MUST**:

✓ Wear a current registration tag.	✓ Wear some form of correctly fitted restraint (e.g. flat collar, slip chain, head collar, body harness).
✓ Be attached to a lead held by the handler unless otherwise directed by an assessor, hosting club or as the exercises are described in this manual;	

The following behaviours ARE NEVER ACCEPTABLE (at all levels) during the CGC exercises:

X Display of fear.	X Trying to run away.
X Display of aggression.	X Excessive vocalisation including barking.
X Anxiety.	X Lunging towards any distractions, other dogs, strangers, or Assessor.
X Over exuberance.	X Regular pulling on, or a constant tight lead, whether held by the handler, someone else or while being tied up.
X Jumping on any person (handler, stranger, Assessor).	X Inappropriate fouling, such as on more than one occasion or on personal property.
X Notable resentment or reluctance to walk steadily with the handler.	

Note: Food, clicker, toy rewards or lures will be allowed to be carried by the handler but must be fully hidden during exercises, unless specifically stated in “Acceptable”. Rewarding of the dog while it is not directly under assessment will be permitted, provided this does not interfere with the performance of another candidate.

The following exercises for Canine Good Citizen **Gold** may be conducted in a **dog controlled area**, being the hosting society’s own grounds, or an area which the hosting society uses on a regular basis for their members.

Exercises:

28. Responsibility and Care.

Purpose: The handler shows their knowledge of responsible dog ownership.

There will be either a written or an oral test consisting of **12** questions primarily from the fifty questions and answers supplied on the Dogs NZ CGC Web page.

Note: If a participant has applied to undergo this assessment in conjunction with another. Then a singular modified examination containing the number of questions for the highest CGC Level applied for shall be given.

- Questions may also be included from the Dog Control Act, Local Authority by-laws and those from Local Authorities within the Regional Authority area.
- The handler must answer **nine** out of the 12 questions correctly.
- The handler must also be able to produce a form of poop scoop and show the dog is wearing its current local registration tag.

Not acceptable

X Less than nine correct answers.
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29. Walking Beside the Handler, Without a Lead.

Purpose: Dog can walk beside handler, off lead, in a calm and mannerly way, and with a person/dog distraction in the vicinity.

The handler will be directed to take the lead off the dog. Handler may pocket the lead, loop it around their body or carry loosely in one hand.

Handler will then be directed to walk forward. A signed course shall include a minimum of:

One Right turn.

One Left turn.

One About turn.

At least One stop while on the walk.

A Stop at the end.

Points to Note

- Competitive Obedience heelwork is not the aim of this exercise. However, the dog must remain by the handler's side.
- At some point during the walk, a person, with their dog on a lead, shall be asked to walk towards and past the handler and dog being assessed at a passing distance of no less than **three** metres. The dog being assessed is required to remain beside the handler.
- Dog is **permitted to walk beside the handler on either** side but must remain consistently on that side throughout the duration of the exercise.
- Dog should ideally remain attentive to the handler and respond to the handler's commands and changes of direction without resentment.
- A change of the dog's distance and position relative to the side of the handler (within **half** a metre), is permitted but good control must remain evident with a continuation to follow the handler's course rather than its own.

- **Directions to stop:**

- Will be indicated to the handler when requested to “Halt” by the Assessor (or sign). Handler must stop within three paces of such a command.
- Dog must stop when the handler does and adopt any preferred position as long as it remains beside the handler. After a short pause of one or two seconds, the handler and their dog should then continue forwards.
- Dog should only move forward on the handler’s command, and without changing of handler’s side.

Acceptable

✓ If dog remains beside handler but alters position when halted.	✓ Additional commands and praise to keep dog at handler’s side while moving.
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Not acceptable

X Jumping up at handler while walking.	X Repeatedly leaves the handler’s side leaving a gap of more than half a metre in any direction away from heeling position.
X Over exuberance.	X Ignoring handler’s commands
X Dog weaving from side to side of handler.	X Leaves handler’s side and does not return when commanded.
X Lunging towards any possible naturally occurring or purposeful distractions (people or other animals).	X Notable resentment or reluctance to walk steadily with the handler, especially when handler changes direction.
X More than two commands were given to sit at any halts.	X Display of fear, aggression, inattention, panic, excessive barking.

30. Sending the Dog To a Known Article and Staying.

Purpose: The dog can be sent away from the handler, towards an article that is familiar to the dog and stay there.

Handler is required to provide a reasonably large article, known to the dog (e.g. mat, blanket, article of clothing) to which their dog will be sent.

Dog may be held by a third party while handler places the article at no less than **ten** metres from the dog.

Upon returning to their dog, handler is to remove the lead and send their dog towards the article.

Dog must go directly to the article with minimal deviation while handler remains in the same place they sent their dog from.

When the dog reaches the article, handler to instruct the dog to stop and stay in whatever position is preferred. A maximum of **two** commands only is permitted.

Dog is to remain in the article’s location, in a settled manner, for no less than **one** minute (with **one** additional command for reinforcement being permitted).

After one minute has elapsed, the Assessor will instruct the handler to approach their dog, reattach the lead and walk forward with dog on lead for 6 paces.

Acceptable

✓ Additional praise/commands (if required) while on the way out to the article.	✓ Once the dog has settled on or close (no less than one metre) to the article; should the dog move (e.g. sits or stands up) from the down position, one only extra command may be given to return dog to preferred position.
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Not acceptable

X Dog does not go to the article directly or goes to the article with excessive deviation.	X Handler has to move off position, to help the dog go to the article.
X Handler needs to give greater number of commands than permitted.	X Dog moves from the article as the handler approaches and/or does not wait for the handler's release command.

31. Parked Vehicle Control.

Purpose: Dog is seen to be relaxed and under control when getting in and out of a vehicle. And, when the dog is left in the vehicle on its own, dog remains unconcerned and relaxed when strangers and/or dogs pass nearby.

a. Into a vehicle and leaving dog

The dog (on lead) will be taken towards the handler's vehicle. Only under exceptional circumstances accompanied by an acceptable explanation to the assessor, will an alternative vehicle to the handler's be permitted.

Handler is to open the door of the vehicle and leave open for a time of no less than **20** seconds. During this time, the dog is to remain at handler's side.

Upon request by the Assessor to do so, the handler shall command the dog to enter the vehicle. This may be achieved by commanding the dog to jump into the vehicle, lifting the dog into the vehicle, or use of a ramp.

Handler is to detach the lead, making certain that the dog is both safe and secure (e.g. by use of a car harness, or confinement of dog to a caged area). Depending on the type of restraint the dog has, either windows or, alternatively, outer vehicle door is to remain open.

Upon request by the Assessor, handler is to walk off to a position so that both vehicle and dog are out of sight. The Assessor will determine whether sufficient distance and position has been established so as not to be an influence on the dog's behaviour.

Acceptable

✓ Additional commands once the dog is in the vehicle.	✓ Mild excitement (e.g. tail wagging) (No jumping up allowed).
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Not acceptable

X If dog leaps into the vehicle before being told by handler.	X Signs of stress or panic when the handler leaves the dog.
X If lifted into the vehicle by the handler, the dog struggles, tries to avoid the handler or appears to be under stress.	X Reaction to anything inside or outside the vehicle, display of fear, aggression, panic, stress, growling, or over exuberance.
X Dog is not made safe and secure.	X Excessive vocalisation or barking.

b. Distractions outside the vehicle while parked

Handler must be out of sight from their vehicle before the following commences:

- Person distraction.

In a manner that allows the dog to be aware of their presence, a person that is not known to the dog being assessed is to walk no closer than **two** metres from the vehicle. This same person is then required to stop for no less than **ten** seconds, close to but facing away from the vehicle before proceeding to walk past the vehicle.

- Person and their dog distraction.

In a manner that allows the dog being assessed being aware of their presence, a person with a dog on lead that are not known to the dog being assessed, are to walk past the car at no less than **two** metres.

Acceptable

✓ Mild interest in what is going on outside (i.e., standing up looking out window, tail wagging).

Not acceptable

X Signs of stress or panic.	X Reaction to anything outside the vehicle, display of fear, aggression, panic, stress, growling, over exuberance.
X Lunging within the vehicle.	X Excessive vocalisation or barking.

c. Out of a vehicle

At the request of the Assessor, the handler is to return to the vehicle and remove any physical restraint (e.g. car harness, lead) or open any confined area is made free (e.g. cage door).

Dog is to remain in the vehicle for a time of no less than **20** seconds.

Upon request by the Assessor to do so, the handler shall attach a lead to their dog and either instruct or assist the dog to exit the vehicle.

Dog to remain calm in a controlled position while the handler closes and locks the vehicle securely.

Handler then walks six paces away from the vehicle with their dog remaining under control and calm at handler's side.

Acceptable

✓ Mild excitement (e.g. tail wagging) Note: No jumping allowed.	✓ Multiple and encouraging commands.
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Not acceptable

X If lifted out of the vehicle by the handler, the dog struggles, tries to avoid the handler or appears to be under stress.	X If commanded to jump, dog leaps out of vehicle before being told by handler.
X Dog is not "under control" at vehicle's side or when walking away.	X Over exuberance and/or excessive barking.

It is preferred exercise 32 for Canine Good Citizen **Gold** will be conducted in a **dog controlled area**, being the hosting society's own grounds, or an area which the hosting society uses on a regular basis for their members.

The ground surface this exercise is to be conducted on should be such as to encourage a dog to use both scent and sight abilities to find and retrieve the article (e.g. short grass). Tarmac, concrete, or gravel surfaces will not be acceptable.

Should the society grounds not have any short grass available, then this exercise could be conducted in a quiet **public area** that will provide an appropriate surface.

32. Delivering a Dropped Article To Handler

Purpose: The dog can find, retrieve, and return an article that belongs to the handler.

Note: The handler is to provide an article that is owned by them and may be carried on a walk. Article is to be no less than the size of the handler's palm or greater than the size of their hand. Examples are gloves, wallet, small hanky, dog's small toy or ball.

Handler to carry the article out of sight of the dog (e.g. on the opposite side the dog is being walked).

Handler with their dog on lead is to walk straight ahead for no less than 10 paces, in a controlled and orderly manner.

Handler shall then drop the article behind them and continue forward for no less than another 10 paces.

After a minimum of 10 paces beyond the dropped article is achieved, handler to halt, turn around in the direction of the dropped article and (after unclipping the lead) command their dog to go back and retrieve the article. Handler to remain still.

A time limit of **two** minutes is given from when the dog leaves the handler to find the article, pick it up and return it to within one metre of the handler.

Upon delivery of the article, handler is to reattach the dog's lead, and continue to walk forward for a further six paces in an orderly manner.

Acceptable

✓ Multiple commands, encouragement, and praise. (**Note:** No jumping up allowed).

Not acceptable

X Upon return to handler, the dog does not allow the lead to be attached.	X Dog does not find the article or return with it within the two minutes.
X Dog upon finding the article, does not return to the handler.	X When told to go and find the article, does not leave the handler to do so.
X Dog returns to the handler with the article but does not allow the handler to take it or pick it up from the ground.	X Dog does not walk in a calm and controlled manner while attached to the lead.
X Dog jumps up on the handler at any time.	

Exercise 33a for Canine Good Citizen **Gold** will be conducted in a **dog-controlled area**, being the hosting society's own grounds, or an area which the hosting society uses on a regular basis for their members.

Exercises 33b and 33c for Canine Good Citizen **Gold** will be conducted in a quiet-to-medium busy **public area**. The preferred area would be the local footpaths within the vicinity of the society's grounds. Should there be no local footpaths, a wide grass verge in which all parties may walk with safety is acceptable or the person, dog and Assessor(s) may be driven to such an area where there are footpaths. All Local Authority and highway codes and conditions must be observed.

33. Another Person (other than the handler) Walking the Dog In a Public Area, With Distractions

Purpose: The dog displays the same good manners and calmness when walked by another person other than its owner/handler. This demonstrates that the dog can be looked after by another person should the owner/handler not be present (e.g. dog staying over at family or friends, a veterinary clinic or boarding kennel).

a. Handing the dog over to the nominated person

Handler is to nominate a person they want to walk their dog. The nominated person should be familiar with the commands required for handling the dog. The nominated person may be known to the dog but **must not** be a member of the same household as the handler.

Handler is to hand over the lead to the nominated person and go out of sight.

Acceptable

✓ A small amount of initial anxiety upon being separated from the handler, but dog is seen to quickly settle down and accept the handler.	✓ Multiple encouragement and/or commands from the handler.
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Not acceptable

X Signs of separation anxiety.	X Trying to run away.
X Display of aggression.	X Display of fear.
X Over exuberance.	X Lunging towards any distractions, other dogs, strangers, or Assessor.
X Jumping up on any person (handler, stranger, Assessor).	X Excessive vocalisation, including barking.

b. Person walking the dog in a public area

Person, dog, and Assessor shall walk along a footpath for **at least five minutes**, which must include **at least two road crossings**. Handler is to stop at each curb side before crossing the road. Dog may assume whatever position they wish or as instructed by the handler but must always remain beside the handler.

Acceptable

✓ Mild, startled reactions to its surroundings.	✓ Mild interest and curiosity in its surroundings.
✓ Dog voluntarily sits beside handler.	✓ Multiple encouragement and/or commands from the handler.
✓ A small amount of initial anxiety when person and dog start on the walk, but dog is seen to quickly settle down with the new handler.	

Not acceptable

X Signs of separation anxiety.	X Regular correction from the handler.
X Display of aggression.	X Trying to run away.
X Jumping up on any person (handler, stranger, Assessor).	X Excessive vocalisation, including barking.
X Over exuberance.	X Inappropriate fouling, such as on more than one occasion or on personal property.

c. Distractions while person walking the dog in a public area

While walking, the handler and dog are to pass or be passed by at least **two** people walking together on the same side of the street.

While walking, there must be a stranger and their dog on the **opposite** side of the street. They are required to both walk towards, and later return past, the person, and their dog.

Acceptable

✓ Multiple encouragement and/or commands from the handler.	✓ Mild, startled reactions to the distractions, but the dog is seen to settle down on handler's commands.
✓ Mild interest and curiosity in its surroundings.	

Not acceptable

X Signs of separation anxiety.	X Regular correction from the handler.
X Display of aggression.	X Trying to run away.
X Jumping up on any person (handler, stranger, Assessor).	X Excessive vocalisation, including barking.
X Over exuberance.	X Inappropriate fouling, such as on more than one occasion or on personal property.

Exercise 34 for Canine Good Citizen **Gold** would ideally be conducted in a quiet **public area**. The preferred area is a large, grassed area, such as a local park or sports grounds not normally used by the hosting club. This exercise must be conducted at a safe distance from any vehicle traffic.

Should no suitable venue exist locally, the host club may make application to the CGC Committee to undertake this exercise on their own grounds or on grounds they normally use for training purposes. Such application must cite the reasons why no other venue may be used, for example local bylaws, safety concerns etc.

34. Stop the Dog In a Public Area.

Purpose: To ascertain that the dog, while on the move **away** from the handler and at a distance from the handler, will stop immediately on command and remain in place until the handler reaches the dog and reattaches the lead.

*This exercise is intended to simulate an emergency situation **where the dog runs away from the handler towards a (distant) hazard.***

With the dog off the lead, the handler is to encourage their dog to leave their side and move away at least 10 metres. This may be done using play methods or directing their dog towards another person or object of interest.

While the dog is moving away from the handler and at least 10 metres away, upon instruction from the assessor, the handler will command the dog to stop, and stay, in any position. The dog must be seen to respond immediately.

The dog must remain in the stopped area for at least 30 seconds, then the handler goes over to the dog and reattaches the lead.

Handler and dog are then to walk forward for a further 6 paces.

Acceptable

✓ Up to two commands for dog to stop in any position (or as directed).	✓ Only one extra stay or wait command once the dog has stopped. Verbal praise is allowed.
✓ Dog moves posture (i.e., sit/stand/down), but does not move from the stopped area.	✓ If the dog is moving at speed, allowance will be made for the dog to stop (i.e., the dog is seen to be responding to command).
✓ Upon reattaching the lead, verbal praise and a pat allowed.	✓ Verbal praise is allowed both while the dog is staying in place and when the handler rejoins the dog and clips on the lead.

Not acceptable

X Dog moves away from stopped area before the handler has reached it.	X Dog fails to leave handler's side for more than 10 metres.
X Failure to comply immediately to a stop on command.	X Needing to hold the dog while clipping on the lead.

Exercise 35 for Canine Good Citizen **Gold** will be conducted in a busy **public area**. The preferred area would be a local shopping area, outside a shopping mall or at a local sporting event. The dog must be on lead while conducting this exercise. All Local Authority conditions must be observed.

35. Walking, With Distractions, In a Busy Public Area.

Purpose: In an area of high-volume traffic and pedestrians, the handler is observed to be in control, and their dog remain calm and stress free while walking, crossing roads and with a distraction of another dog and person. Dog is to remain on lead the entire time.

a. Walking

Handler and dog are to be taken to a public area of high-volume traffic and pedestrians.

Handler and dog to walk in a high public area for **at least five minutes**.

There are to be **at least two road crossings**, one of which (if possible) should be at a pedestrian or light controlled crossing. Handler is to stop at each curb side before crossing the road with their dog remaining calmly at their sides in a position of choice or commanded.

b. Additional distractions

While walking, the handler and dog are to be approached by, and go past, another person who has a dog (on lead and not known by the dog being assessed).

Acceptable

✓ Dog voluntarily sits beside handler at stops.	✓ Mild interest and curiosity in its surroundings.
✓ Mild, startled reactions to its surroundings.	✓ Multiple instructions from the handler while walking.

Not acceptable

X Notable resentment or reluctance to walk steadily with the handler.	X Lunging towards any naturally occurring or engineered distractions.
X Display of fear, panic, cringing.	X Regular correction from the handler.
X Display of aggression, growling.	X Inattention.
X Hiding or avoidance, trying to run away.	X Threatening behaviour.
X Over exuberance.	X Excessive barking.
X Jumping up (handler, stranger, assessor).	X Regular pulling on, or a constant tight lead

36. Café Experience (effective 1 July 2024)

Exercise 36 for Canine Good Citizen Gold will be conducted in a public area. The preferred area would be a local cafe or bar that has a good-sized outside or inside area where guests are allowed to bring dogs. The dog must be on a lead throughout this exercise. All Local Authority conditions must be observed.

Purpose: Demonstrates that the dog will remain in a set location beside handler while handler is either seated at a table or seated as a group on the ground or seated as a group on the ground (picnic setup).

Setup:

Handler shall approach and sit at a table of sufficient size to accommodate all participants. Up to three other participants may also either simultaneously approach the table or be already seated.

Alternatively, handler shall approach an area of ground where three other persons may already be sitting, or simultaneously be approaching (picnic setup).

Then:

Handler is to command the dog to adopt a down position beside where they are seated.

Participants are required to engage in dialogue with one another for a minimum duration of **one** minute.

At the completion of **one** minute, a stranger is to deliver to the group an item of food and a beverage for each participant, and then leave.

Once all food and beverages have been served, participants are to both continue conversation and partake of the food and beverages delivered for a minimum of **five** minutes.

During the five minute conversation and food consumption, a different stranger (other than the one who served the participants), walks past with their dog at no less than two metres and no greater than 3 metres from the group.

After the stranger walks past the group with their dog, another different stranger (other than the one who served the group or walked the dog), is to approach the group and converse with them for a period of no less than **two** minutes before walking away.

No less than **one** minute after the conversing stranger has left, each person seated at the table shall leave the group with their dogs on lead either simultaneously or individually and walk away six paces.

Points to Note:

- To accommodate any arrangements made with a public café, this exercise may be conducted either on the same day all the other exercises are assessed or, on a separately arranged day in collaboration with the café. Ideally the same Assessor would be used. However, a pre-arranged co-Assessor, to assess all who would have otherwise been assessed for all the other exercises, may for this exercise be acceptable.
- Multiple handlers, up to a maximum of **four**, undertaking this exercise, may at the discretion of the Assessor, do so simultaneously. If there are greater than four dogs being assessed, then these must be conducted as individual groups not exceeding four, at individual times.
- If any of the persons in this exercise are **not** being assessed, the inclusion of their dog is optional (and at the discretion of the Assessor).
- Assessor or appointed person shall indicate when a required minimum time has elapsed.

Acceptable

✓ Shows a mild interest or curiosity in surroundings and/or distractions.	✓ Slight startled reactions but responding immediately to handler's command to remain with them.
✓ Wriggling while down, shifting hips, or changing from sphinx to lie-on-the-side, or vice-versa.	

Not acceptable

X Jumping up at handler or any people.	X Jumping up or any movement as an attempt to take the food.
X Lunging towards any possible naturally occurring or engineered distractions, people, animals, or equipment.	X Regular correction being required from the handler to remain in position.



Responsibility and Care Guidelines

The below information is intended as a guide only and should not be considered as an exhaustive list of a dog owner's responsibilities.

Section 1 – Legal Responsibilities

1. THE LEGAL OBLIGATIONS OF A DOG OWNER (SECTION 5, DOG CONTROL ACT 1996)

Registration of their dog with a relevant Local Authority before the age of three months and thereafter, during the month of July each year. Minimum age a person can be the registered owner of a dog is 16 years.

Unless a working dog, microchipping of their dog within 2 calendar months of their first registration and be able to provide proof of this if required.

Promptly notify all relevant Local Authorities of any change of address or ownership of their dog.

Ensure that their dog is always kept under control.

Ensure their dog receives proper care and attention and is supplied with proper and sufficient food, water, and shelter.

Ensure their dog is adequately exercised.

Take all reasonable steps to ensure that their dog does not become a nuisance to any other person, whether by persistent and loud barking, howling or any other means.

Take all reasonable steps to ensure that their dog does not injure, endanger, intimidate or otherwise cause distress to any person.

Take all reasonable steps to ensure that their dog does not injure, endanger or distress stock, poultry, domestic animals or protected wildlife.

Take all reasonable steps to ensure that their dog does not damage or endanger any property belonging to another person.

Complies with the Dog Control Act, Regulations and Bylaws made under the various Acts.

Ensures that dogs travelling on the deck of a truck/ute are:

- Tethered, with a tether short enough so that the dog cannot leap off the deck.

- Provided with a non-slip surface.

- Provided with shelter.

2. DOG CONTROL ACT 1996 AND CODE OF WELFARE: DOGS 2010.

This legislation pertains nationwide. A person may, for the purpose of stopping an attack, seize or destroy a dog if—

- A person is attacked by the dog; or

- A person witnesses a dog attacking another person, stock, poultry, domestic animal, or protected wildlife.

Schedule 4 of the Dog Control Act 1996 restricts the importing, breeding, and sale of the following types/breeds of dogs.

- American Pit Bull Terrier.

- Dogo Argentino.

- Brazilian Fila.

- Japanese Tosa.

- Perro de Presa Canario.

These breeds are also classified as menacing and so therefore must wear a muzzle in public.

Containment and Tethering (Extract from Code of Welfare Minimum standard 4).

Dogs must not be contained or tethered in a way that causes them injury or distress.

Collars must fit comfortably without damaging the skin or restricting breathing.

Dogs should not be left unattended or routinely tethered by choke chains or other devices which tighten around the neck.

A correctly fitted collar allows space between the collar and the neck so that it does not restrict breathing or chafe against the hair and skin of the dog's neck but is secure enough that it cannot slip its head from the collar.

A harness can be used to restrain a dog with the advantage of distributing pressure over the chest rather than the neck.

3. LEGISLATION AND LOCAL AUTHORITY DOG REGULATIONS

Each Regional and Local Authority have their own Bylaws which essentially describes how dogs must be controlled in public places within their zone of influence to reduce the likelihood of dangerous canine behaviour and nuisance situations arising.

These Bylaws are specific and will include:

Control of dogs on lead.

Dog exercise areas.

Public places.

Fouling in public places.

Requirement for a permit to keep more than one dog.

Dog control fees.

It is essential to make yourself familiar with your own Local Authority Bylaws concerning dog ownership and control as well as any Local Authority areas you frequently visit.

4. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS REGARDING OFF-LEAD AREAS AND DOG ACCESS

Local — The Dog Control Act 1996 and the Local Government Act 2002, allow Regional and Local Authorities to create By-laws in relation to:

- Requiring dogs, other than working dogs, to be controlled on a lead in specified public places, or in public places in specified areas or parts of the district.
- Regulating and controlling dogs in any other public place.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the Regional and Local Authority By-laws in your area and to obey them,

Never walk your dog off lead if there are public notices that prohibit this.

National Parks — Dogs are prohibited from entering National Parks and owners can be fined up to \$3000 if found to be in breach of this.

Conservation Land — The Department of Conservation regulates dog access into forest parks and conservation parks.

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/plan-and-prepare/dog-access/types-of-access/>.

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/activity-finder/dog-walking/http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/activity-finder/dog-walking/>

Summary of Guidelines

- Keep your dog under control, preferably with a lead, always.
- A dog out of sight is a dog out of control.
- Carry a lead and use it.
- Ensure that your dog does not disrupt other people's enjoyment of the park.
- Clean up after your dog.

5. DISEASE CONTROL – YOU CAN HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF DISEASES

If planning to enter or pass across farmland with your dog, you must first have permission from the farm owner or occupier.

To prevent the spread of disease such as sheep measles, the landowner may require you to have your dog dosed before entering their property.

Dog faeces may contain harmful bacteria or diseases that can easily spread to farm animals, so be sure to remove your dog's waste.

Do not allow your dog to swim in water troughs.

Section 2 – Best Practice Recommendations

1. FURTHER RESPONSIBILITIES OF OWNERSHIP

The following points offer a guide to establishing responsible dog ownership for you and the public:

Do not feed the dog from your plate but only from their own bowl.

Dogs prefer a bed of their own.

Bathing is sometimes necessary but should be done in moderation.

Your dog should never be permitted to be out on their own to wander the neighbourhood.

Do not allow your dog to foul in any inappropriate places.

If fouling occurs in a public place, always clean up after your dog.

Never take your dog into a restaurant or any shop that sells food.

Never leave your dog unattended if going away on holiday.

Consider neutering or spaying to avoid unwanted puppies. Talk this option over with your vet.

If you wish to breed with your Bitch, first seek the advice of experts, particularly the breeder of your dog, your vet, and local breed club. In so doing, you can make an informed and responsible decision, and understand what commitments and risks are involved.

Always ensure that your dog is wearing a collar with their correct current Local Authority registration tag attached.

Dogs need to be able to feel part of the family. However, dog must never become the leader.

Dogs should never be tied up or left unattended while wearing any type of slip style collar.

2. HEALTH AND ILLNESS

To maintain a dog in good health, you should:

Take your dog to the vet at least annually for a full health check-up and routine vaccinations.

Regularly brush your hands over your dog's body to check for burrs, thistles, ticks, lumps and bumps, or any abnormalities. If found, you should see a vet immediately.

Regularly clean and groom your dog to ensure that no part of their coat becomes matted.

Give the contact details of your vet's address and phone number to any person looking after your dog whenever you are away.

Regularly check for, and control fleas and/or ticks. Fleas are usually found around the neck,

abdomen, and tail areas. Live adult fleas may not always be visible but “flea dirt” is usually present. If your dog has an allergy/infection from flea infestation, veterinary advice should be sought.

Dose for worms. Roundworm, Tapeworm and Hookworms can infest pups and dogs. Dogs should be wormed every six months. However, for pregnant Bitches and puppies, seek veterinary advice first.

In good health a dog should display the same demeanour from day-to-day. So, should any of the following occur, immediate veterinary advice should be sought:

A dog with a normal healthy appetite refuses to eat.

A normally active dog becomes lethargic.

A dog vomits several times.

An adult dog has loose motions or diarrhoea lasting more than 24 hours. Earlier intervention for puppies and/or small dogs should be considered.

Loss of blood.

Dog is unconscious.

Dog has a fit or seizure.

3. DOG FEEDING AND WEIGHT GUIDELINES¹

Dogs should be fed to maintain their body weight within their normal physiological range, irrespective of their physical activity.

All food offered to your dog should be of sufficient amount and appropriately balanced in nutrients to meet their physiological needs.

Non-working dogs should be fed at least once a day. However, it is generally best to divide their daily ration into two, with one feed in the morning and another in the evening.

Working dogs should be fed at the end of their working day. A small meal an hour or two before exercise may be beneficial before prolonged periods of work.

There are many good quality, complete and balanced commercial dog foods available. However, diets may be home-mixed provided they are complete and balanced.

An all-lean-meat diet, such as farm-killed lean mutton, does not provide a balanced diet.

Certain prohibitions apply to the feeding of meat and offal from livestock to dogs.

The ideal body weight differs for each dog according to breed, age, and gender.

A dog's body condition can be determined and scored from 0 to 9 by use of the following table.

¹ *Dog Weight Guidelines: Taken from: Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Dogs*
Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, c/- Ministry of Agriculture, PO Box 2526, Wellington. Code of Animal Welfare No. 20, ISBN 0-478-07459, ISSN 1171-090X, May 1998

BODY CONDITION SYSTEM TABLE²			
U N D E R F E D	1	Ribs, lumbar vertebrae, pelvic bones, and all bony prominences evident from a distance. No discernible body fat. Obvious loss of muscle mass.	EMACIATED
	2	Ribs, lumbar vertebrae, and pelvic bones easily visible. No palpable fat. Some evidence of other bony prominence. Minimal loss of muscle mass	VERY THIN
	3	Ribs easily palpated and may be visible with no palpable fat. Tops of lumbar vertebrae visible. Pelvic bones becoming prominent. Obvious waist and abdominal tuck	THIN
I D E A L	4	Ribs easily palpable, with minimal fat covering. Waist easily noted, viewed from above. Abdominal tuck evident	UNDERWEIGHT
	5	Ribs palpable without excess fat covering. Waist observed behind ribs when viewed from above. Abdomen tucked when viewed from the side.	IDEAL
O V E R F E D	6	Ribs palpable with slight excess fat covering. Waist is discernible viewed from above but is not prominent. Abdominal tuck apparent.	OVERWEIGHT
	7	Ribs palpable with difficulty, heavy fat cover. Noticeable fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent or barely visible. Abdominal tuck may be absent.	HEAVY
	8	Ribs not palpable under heavy fat cover, or palpable only with significant pressure. Heavy fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent. No abdominal tuck. Obvious abdominal distension may be present.	OBESE
	9	Massive fat deposits over thorax, spine, and base of tail. Waist and abdominal tuck absent. Fat deposits on neck and limbs. Obvious abdominal distention.	GROSSLY OBESE

4. DOGS OFF-LEAD. RESPONSIBLE OFF-LEAD PRACTICES

Only allow your dog off lead if it has a reliable recall back to you in any environment and under any distraction.

Never allow your dog off lead when there is traffic around.

Only allow your dog to be off lead where there is livestock, or birdlife when strict voice control is ensured.

² BODY CONDITION SYSTEM (BCS) is validated in the following publications: Mawby D, Bartges JW, Moyers T, et. Al. Comparison of body fat estimates by dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry and deuterium oxide dilution in client owned dogs. Compendium 2001;23 (9A):70. Laflamme DP Development and Validation of a Body Condition Score system for Dogs. Canine Practice July/August 1997; 22:10-15. Kealy, et. al. Effects of Diet Restriction on Life Span and Age-Related Changes in Dogs JAVMA 2002;220:1315-1320

5. DOGS TRAVELLING IN A VEHICLE

Dogs should always be secured in a vehicle. This could be in the form of either a cage, barrier or dog car harness.

Never leave your dog in a vehicle parked in the sun. Even in mild weather, a vehicle can heat up and kill your dog very quickly.

Should you be in a position where you must leave your dog in a vehicle, always park your vehicle under shade, even in the winter months. Remember that shade moves throughout the day. Without compromising security, leave windows open for ventilation.

Be aware that dogs may become territorial when in your vehicle. This can lead to aggressive (protective) behaviour towards strangers who may inadvertently approach your vehicle. If present, reprimand any territorial behaviour. Advise people to never put their hand through a window or door.

Dogs should leave the vehicle in a controlled manner, either on a lead or under strict control to stay with you.

Avoid carsickness problems or stress by taking your dog out for short trips, gradually increasing their length as the dog becomes used to travelling.

Try to keep your dog in a calm state of mind whilst travelling.

Dogs should never distract the driver.

Never allow your dog to travel with their head out of the window.

How a dog behaves in a vehicle on their first few journeys will form their habits for its lifetime.

Dogs travelling on the deck of a truck/ute must be:

Tethered, with a tether short enough so that the dog cannot leap off the deck. (It is further recommended that the dog be tethered from two points or at the centre of the deck so they cannot inadvertently fall off the side).

Provided with a non-slip surface.

Provided with shelter.

6. EQUIPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

A dog's lead must be used or carried by the handler whenever your dog is in public. It should be comfortable to hold at any part of its length and should be in good condition (i.e. no worn stitching, chewed areas or a clip that may be unreliable).

There are many types of "collars" available on the market to help you walk your dog in a controlled manner (e.g. halti, gentle leaders, harness leaders, slip chain, etc.). Make certain you have a type that suits you and your dog. Seek advice on the correct method of use for each type of restraint.

Choose a restraint that will not break under strain and check that it fits correctly (e.g. if a dog suddenly backs up, it cannot slip out of its collar).

Except for a standard (flat) leather or webbing collar, no restraint should be left on your dog while unsupervised.

The dog's current Local Authority Registration tag must always be worn in public.

7. DOGS AND CHILDREN

It is an adult's total responsibility to protect children from any dog and dogs from children. Children must therefore be taught how to behave around dogs.

Specifically:

Never make sudden movements close to a dog.

Never scream or suddenly yell close to a dog.

Never approach a dog from behind.

Never approach a dog that is tied up.

Always ask permission before touching a dog they do not know.

Never lunge at or startle a dog, particularly if it is asleep.

Never put their face close to a dog's face.

Never blow into the dog's face.

Never eat food close to a dog.

Never tease or pull a dog's body or coat.

Always wash hands after playing with a dog.

Should a dog give a warning growl, leave the dog alone.

Respect all dogs.

Never leave a child alone with a dog.

Supervise any play between children and dogs.

Leave a dog alone when he/she is eating.

Dog attacks on children are nearly always the result of the lack of appropriate education and supervision.

The highest proportion of dog bites to children are by dogs known to the child or family.

8. BABIES

When the family has a baby, it is natural that much attention will be given to the new arrival. It is important therefore that the dog does not become resentful of the new family member. Owners should ensure that the dog's usual daily routine is maintained and that the dog receives the same amount of attention and discipline they previously received.

Never leave a baby or young child alone with a dog. Supervise all interaction between baby and dog.

It is recommended that when first allowing the dog to have contact with the baby that they be allowed to sniff the baby's bottom or feet and not their face.

9. EXCESSIVE BARKING

Excessive barking is a nuisance that could lead to relations with your neighbours deteriorating. If your dog does bark excessively, take time to establish the reason why and put measures in place to stop it.

Ensure your dog has adequate activities and exercise.

Consider changes to your gating or fencing to reduce views or provide a "neutral" space before the dog's boundary.

Communicate with your neighbours and let them know you are trying to find out the cause of any excessive barking and attempting to put a stop to it. It may be useful also to ask them to assist you, which may reassure them that you are being proactive and considerate.

10. MULTI-DOG HOUSEHOLDS

If owning more than one dog:

Ensure that each individual dog gets equal attention, affection, and guidance.

Training all dogs at the same time may lead to distraction, confusion and competition. Set aside times for each dog to get the same one-on-one attention.

Once each dog is sure of obedience commands, ensure all dogs obey at the same time and in the same manner.

11. SOCIALISATION

Socialising puppies and dogs is extremely important.

To not do so can result in fear-aggression later in the dog's life.

Puppies can start socialising prior to their final vaccination(s) provided they are carried when in public areas and introduced only to known vaccinated dogs in a secure, controlled environment. Puppies should be introduced to as many new experiences and people as possible before they are 16 weeks of age, which is their optimal period for socialising.

Introduce the puppy or dog to everything it will encounter in its life (e.g. people, other animals, children, cars, etc.) in a gradual and controlled manner, so each part is not an overload and therefore frightening.

As the owner, you should always be confident in each new situation, so that the puppy/dog will take its cue from you.

Puppies should stay with their mother and littermates until at least 8 weeks to ensure that they learn canine social skills including initial bite inhibition.

The ideal age to move a puppy from its litter to a new home is 8-10 weeks, which is considered the optimal age to handle change and bond with the new owners.

12. TERRITORIAL BEHAVIOUR

Dogs are naturally territorial (i.e. they "protect" what they consider as their territory, which may include a vehicle). They display this behaviour usually by excessive barking and/or rushing behaviour which could escalate out of control.

Suggestions to "control" your dog's territorial behaviour are:

Distracting the dog by calling and then rewarding when the dog comes to you.

Putting the dog into a down stay and reinforcing this until the dog calms down.

Placing your dog in areas of the property that reduces their excuse to protect. For example, confinement to the back yard instead of front yard.

13. PLAYING WITH YOUR DOG

Play behaviour (e.g. chasing and tugging) are watered-down predatory behaviours. These behaviours can be more pronounced in some breeds than in others (e.g. a Border Collie is more likely to chase a ball, whilst a Terrier will tend to not let go with a tug game).

Games are important to build a relationship with your dog. The main rule to follow is YOU start and finish the game. Always play the game following your rules, not the dog's.

Have a few toys to play with your dog that they do not have access to at other times.

Never allow teeth on skin even in play. If this occurs immediately stop the game.

Avoid rough housing or wrestling games.

14. UNACCEPTABLE OR INSECURE BEHAVIOUR

Constant company, excessive reassurance and/or touching given to a dog may cause stress when it is left on its own. The result may be excessive barking, whining/howling and/or destructive behaviour. Condition your puppy/dog to separation from an early age. If the stress levels or destructive behaviour become significant then professional advice should be sought.

Excessive aggression – There are several reasons why a dog can become aggressive. In such instances, advice from a local dog Obedience club or professional dog behaviourist should be sought to analyse and correct any aggression problems.

Section 3 – Dog Training Theory

How does a dog learn?

A dog is constantly learning. They learn by understanding what is to their advantage or disadvantage by:

Reinforcement – if something is rewarding or gets rewarded it is likely to be repeated (if a dog jumps up on a person and they pet it as a result it is likely to try this again to get attention).

Repetition - (if the dog is always required to sit at the curb side, it will eventually sit at every curb side automatically).

Routine of the dog within its family (when owners are getting ready to go to bed, dog knows the place it will be put to sleep at night).

Trial and error – discovering pleasurable experiences (sitting under the dining room table in the hope of a dropped titbit) and not so pleasurable experiences (disturbing the cat resulting in the dog getting a scratch).

Insight – combining two experiences to form a new experience (owner gets the dog's lead, dog is then put in the car = time at the park).

Mimicry – watching and imitating (a new dog in the household learns to use a dog door by following an older dog already using it).

Instinctive - behaviour that occurs without any prior experience (a young male dog begins to urinate on vertical surfaces once male hormones have developed).

Extinction - the elimination of a behaviour through continued ignoring or lack of reward.

When teaching a dog good behaviour, it must be remembered:

Inconsistency causes confusion. If sometimes you let a dog jump up on your lap and other times, you don't, the dog will be confused and it will delay the learning process.

Praise or discouragement allied to the dog's behaviour must be immediate. The dog will only recognise the praise or discouragement to a particular behaviour within two seconds of the act.

When play, praise and reward are linked to teach a dog, the result is a happy dog.

When there is a problem with your dog's learning, don't immediately work at the symptom. Instead, try to think like a dog to find the cause of any problems before attempting to reverse it.