



Canine Good Neighbour Program

EXERCISE DESCRIPTION

Demonstrating confidence and control, you and your dog must complete these **12 steps**:

TEST 1 - Accepting A Friendly Stranger

This test demonstrates the dog's ability to allow a friendly stranger to approach and speak to the handler. The evaluator will walk toward the handler and dog and greet the handler by shaking hands and briefly chatting. The dog should remain under control with only gentle assistance, if necessary. The dog should not go to nor jump on the evaluator and must not exhibit any signs of shyness or resentment.

TEST 2 - Politely Accepts Petting

This test demonstrates the dog's ability to allow a friendly stranger to pet it while out with its handler. The evaluator will pet the dog on the head and shoulders. The dog may sit or stand quietly beside the handler and may change position, but must not exhibit any signs of shyness or resentment.

TEST 3 - Appearance and Grooming

This practical test demonstrates that the dog will accept being groomed and examined and will permit a stranger to do so. The evaluator inspects the dog, brushes the dog briefly on the back and sides, and lightly examines its ears and front feet. The evaluator then walks behind the handler and dog, returning to face the dog. Minor movement is allowed, but the dog should not have to be restrained.

TEST 4 - Out For A Walk

This test demonstrates the ability of the dog to walk politely on a loose leash as well as the handler's ability to control the dog. The evaluator will have the handler and dog walk a course, which will include at least one right and left turn and a 180-degree turn. It is not necessary for the dog to be exactly aligned with the handler or sit when the handler stops. The handler may talk to the dog.

TEST 5 - Walking Through A Crowd

This test demonstrates the ability of the dog to walk politely beside the handler in pedestrian traffic, while remaining under control at all times. The dog and handler walk through and close to several people. Throughout this test the handler may talk to the dog giving praise and encouragement. The dog must maintain a position close to the handler without becoming unduly stressed or unruly. The dog may show some interest in the strangers but should not go to them.

TEST 6 - Sit/Down On Command and Stay In Place

This Test demonstrates the dog's ability to respond to the handler's commands. The handler may take a reasonable amount of time and use more than one command to sit and down the dog. If required, the handler may touch the dog gently to assist it. Once the dog has responded to both a sit and down command, the handler will decide in which position the dog is going to be left. The handler will then tell the dog to stay and walk forward 6 metres before turning around to face the dog, then will return to the dog.

TEST 7 - Come When Called

This test demonstrates the dog's ability to come when called by the handler. The evaluator will stand near the dog and instruct the handler to position the dog in either a sit, down or stand position. The handler will then leave the dog and go to a distance of 3 metres before turning and calling the dog. The dog should come readily to the handler; the handler may encourage the dog.

TEST 8 - Praise/Interaction

This test demonstrates that the dog can be easily calmed following a play session or praise. After playing with the dog for approximately 10 seconds, the handler then calms the dog. More than one command may be used, but the dog must display controlled behaviour when told to settle by the handler. The evaluator looks for evidence of a good relationship between the dog and handler.

TEST 9 - Reaction To A Passing Dog

This test demonstrates the dog's polite behaviour while in the presence of other dogs and handlers. Two handlers, with dogs, approach one another from approximately 6 metres. They stop, shake hands briefly, chat and then continue walking. The dog should exhibit no more than mild interest in the other dog.

TEST 10 - Reaction To Distractions

This test demonstrates that the dog is confident when faced with common visual and auditory distractions such as doors opening, baby strollers, joggers, etc. The dog may express natural interest in the distraction and may temporarily startle, but should not show aggression or fear. One or two barks are permitted and the handler may talk to the dog throughout this test.

TEST 11 - Supervised Isolation

This test demonstrates the dog's ability to be left alone with a person other than its handler, while maintaining a calm acceptance of the situation. The handler asks another person to hold the dog and tells the dog to stay. The handler goes to a pre-designated location, out of sight of the dog and waits 3 minutes until called to return by the assistant evaluator. The dog should not show excessive stress by pulling on the lead, or exhibit excessive panting, barking or whining.

TEST 12 - Walking Through A Door/Gate

This test demonstrates the dog's response to the handler's commands as well as the handler's ability to control the dog while moving ahead of the dog and through a door/gate. The handler commands the dog to sit and wait and walks through the door/gate, while instructing the dog to follow. Alternatively, the dog and handler may proceed through the door/gate together, with the dog accompanying the handler on a loose leash. The dog must not go through before the handler instructs him to do so.