



# **K-9 BUDDIES, INC.**

*Helping Dogs Help People*

## **Therapy Dog Evaluation Procedure:**

Please Note: If your dog does not have a Canine Good Citizen Award you may also be scheduled for a CGC test administered by an AKC evaluator at the same time as your evaluation.

### **PLEASE BRING THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS WITH YOU:**

1. Proof of current rabies vaccination for your dog. ***The test and/or evaluation cannot move forward without this verification.***
2. A copy of your dog's Canine Good Citizen Award (if he or she has one).
3. The completed application form
4. Attendance certificate for the handler class

Please review the information below so your test and/or evaluation may proceed smoothly.

## **General Testing Info:**

### **Equipment:**

**Unacceptable:** retractable leads, leads longer than 6 ft., prong or pinch collars, choke collars, muzzles, and Gentle Leaders or Halti devices.

**Allowed:** Body harness, Martingale collars, flat collars, and devices designed to provide mobility for a dog with physical disabilities

***Please bring some treats of the type you usually provide for your dog. The evaluator will require at least one during the evaluation.***

Please be punctual. Arrive a few minutes before your scheduled time slot so you can allow your dog can acclimate and settle down a bit before testing. We must start your test and/or evaluation on schedule so that others will not be delayed.

If you cannot make your scheduled appointment please let us know in advance so we may assign your position to another team.

### **Canine Good Citizen Test:**

There is a \$20 fee for the Canine Good Citizen Test and it must be paid directly to the AKC evaluator conducting the test, prior to the testing. Please bring either cash or a personal check with you. You will also have to pay a \$8 fee, payable to the AKC, when you send in your paperwork. You must pass all 10 parts of the test. You can learn about the ten parts by visiting:

[http://www.akc.org/events/cgc/training\\_testing.cfm](http://www.akc.org/events/cgc/training_testing.cfm)

***It is advisable to make sure you and your dog are prepared. The testing fee is not refundable, regardless of outcome.***

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## **Therapy Dog Evaluation:**

Evaluation of you and your dog for therapy work is free. We will be assessing your dog's suitability for therapy dog visits and your abilities as a handler. You, the handler, will be evaluated as thoroughly as your dog. There are 3 possible outcomes to your evaluation:

- 1) Your dog has the necessary temperament for therapy work, response to basic obedience commands is consistent, and your skills as a handler are acceptable. In this instance you will be able to move on to the trial visits, the last step to certification.
- 2) Your dog has a suitable temperament but response to commands is not adequate or consistent. In this instance, the evaluator will point out the weak areas and suggest some remedies. You and your dog are welcome to retest whenever you feel that the issues have been corrected.
- 3) Your dog demonstrates a demeanor unsuitable for therapy work and/or aggressive behavior towards other dogs or people. In this instance your dog will not qualify for reconsideration at a later date.

## **Here are some tips for a successful evaluation and/or CGC test:**

- 1) While your dog may show interest in other dogs (which is perfectly normal) he may not become so interested in them that he ignores his handler and begins to set his own agenda. Make sure your dog, will refocus his attention on you when required.
- 2) Make sure you and your dog are on the same page with the basic obedience commands and that he will respond properly at least 90% of the time. "Sit", (except Greyhounds), and the recall are mandatory. Your dog must come to you when called. If your dog is deaf, he should have been trained with hand signals and that is fine, as long as he responds. In the case of blindness, each case will be assessed individually, and, as long as the handler is proficient at working with a blind dog it will not prevent them from getting certified.
- 3) **YOUR DOG CANNOT JUMP UP ON PEOPLE!** If he does, work with him until he does not jump and sits quietly for attention.
- 4) Spend some time introducing your dog to other people and insist that he sit politely and wait patiently for attention while you converse with the other person. Perform this exercise when the other person has a dog as well.
- 5) Make sure your dog's nails are trimmed and he presents a clean, healthy appearance. Address any dental hygiene issues prior to the evaluation. Your dog should not be scratching or self grooming during the evaluation.

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- 6) Train your dog to accept a treat gently. Your dog **cannot** mouth someone's arm or hand even as a playful gesture.
- 7) The morning of the evaluation, take your dog for a nice long walk to burn off some excess energy. Make sure your dog has had an opportunity to answer nature's call. If your dog is uncomfortable during the evaluation he may not respond as he normally would.
- 8) Teach yourself to communicate with your dog often as that will help to focus his attention on you instead of other distractions. Talk to your dog on walks. Insist on eye contact.
- 9) Make sure your dog will recall (come to you when called).
- 10) Make sure you constantly watch what your dog is doing, notice any signs of stress, and rivet your attention on the interactions your dog will have during the evaluation. The handler, who does not watch their dog, **all the time**, is a dangerous handler.
- 11) You will be asked to leave your dog with the evaluator while you go out of sight for a few minutes. Apprehension about your absence is quite normal. Panic is not.
- 12) If there are deficiencies in any area work with your dog and practice enough to correct the problem prior to the evaluation and/or CGC test.

Most of all, relax and have some fun. If you are tense, your dog will be tense. Your evaluator has many years of experience working with dogs and knows very well that dogs will act like dogs. Nothing is perfection. As long as you are in control and you are observant you should be okay.



GOOD LUCK!

The Volunteers of K-9 Buddies, Inc.

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