



Kennel Union of Southern Africa

# Bronze Level Canine Good Citizen Test

## **KUSA Canine Good Citizen Programme**

Any affiliated Club or organisation authorised by the Kennel Union of Southern Africa (KUSA) may hold Canine Good Citizen Tests, which are not competitive. All successful participants will receive appropriate Certificates and Rosettes, subject to the payment of a fee as laid down by KUSA.

There is no limit to the frequency or number of times the various Tests may be taken by any one dog, as long as they comply with age requirements.

## **Entry Qualifications**

Any dog, whether pure bred, crossbred or of mixed breeding may take part provided it has been vaccinated as required by state veterinary regulations and municipal by laws. Dogs must be at least nine (9) months old to participate in the Bronze Test. Dogs that appear to be sick or diseased may be refused acceptance for participation and may be asked to leave the grounds or premises.

## **Code of Practice**

1. This Code of Practice applies to all Kennel Union Affiliated Clubs *and any other approved organisation* which may wish to host Canine Good Citizen Tests. Copies of this Code must be given to all evaluators, instructors and participants participating in *KUSA Canine Good Citizen Tests*.
2. It is the responsibility of the Club *or other organising body* to ensure that the welfare of the dog is paramount. No activity shall be conducted which permits, encourages or develops aggression in a dog.
3. Clubs *or other organising bodies* should ensure that their evaluators and instructors are conversant with acknowledged methods of dog training and understand the rudiments of dog behaviour. Preference should be given to motivational methods of training which take into account the breed and nature of each individual dog.
4. Instructors must be alert to the differing levels of experience of both the owners and the dogs and should be courteous at all times.
5. Any person who witnesses harsh handling of a dog at any Test organised by an Affiliated Club *or other organising body* must report the matter to *the management thereof*.
6. At the start of each training course the importance of good behaviour, the socialisation of dogs and the theory of training, should be discussed. Advice must be given on choosing suitable collars, leads etc. and the benefits of positive identification (microchips, tattoos, discs) and certain training articles.
7. The same handler and dog must complete each test as a team. Either the owner or another designated person may handle the dog. Once the test has commenced, the owner may not interfere with his dog if another person has been designated to handle the dog.
8. All participants and evaluators shall be at the site where the test is to be held at least thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled time of commencement. The Evaluator shall have discretion to postpone the starting time of the test for a reasonable time if participants are delayed. Any participant who is not present at the end of such postponement shall be regarded as withdrawn from the test and shall not be allowed to participate.
9. The offering of food or baiting a dog is to be discouraged during testing
10. Owners/handlers must be reminded to carry some form of "poop scoop" and to remove fouling caused by their dog.
11. Clubs *and other organising bodies* should promote all aspects of responsible dog ownership, at every

opportunity.

### **Evaluators**

Only Evaluators licenced by KUSA to evaluate Canine Good Citizen Tests may do so. There is no restriction on how often an Evaluator may conduct Tests. The Evaluator may not test a dog that he/she owns or co-owns or a dog that is owned or handled by a close member of the Evaluator's family. The Evaluator has the discretion to determine whether testing should be interrupted or postponed for what ever good reason.

**All Evaluators shall be required to complete and sign the KUSA Judging Contract – J1.**

### **Evaluations**

It is not necessary to have the same Evaluator each time a Test is attempted. Each time a Test is taken the Evaluator must date and initial the Test Sheet and indicate whether "passed" or "not ready".

### **Participants before starting on the programme**

Must, produce a current Vaccination Record Card. Children must produce proof that they are over eight (8) years of age and have the written approval of their parents or legal guardians.

### **Test Sheets**

Each participant will bring a printed Test Sheet to the evaluation and hand it to the event organiser. It is the responsibility of the participant to ensure the paperwork is correctly completed and signed. Prior to the commencement of the Test, the Evaluator will collect the signed Test sheet from the event organisers. A participant may take all the Tasks at one time or singly, as per the Evaluators instruction. As each Task is completed, the Evaluator will mark the Test Sheet "Passed" or "Not ready". Those marked "Not Ready" will have to be tested again.

The Club or organising body is to send a copy of the signed and completed Test Sheet to the KUSA Office.

### **Dismissal from the tests**

The Club or organising body reserves the right to dismiss from the Test(s), any dog or person who acts in an aggressive, dangerous or obstreperous manner. The Club or organising body also reserves the right to dismiss from the Test(s) on a temporary basis, any bitch which is on heat and any dog that appears to be sick or diseased.

Physical disciplining of a dog or serious uncontrollable behaviour of a dog prior to the Evaluator taking control of the assembled participants or after he has released them, may be penalised at the discretion of the Evaluator by withdrawing any Test Sheets held by the handler.

### **Summary of Bronze Canine Good Citizen Tests**

Before a *BRONZE* certificate is issued, all the following Tasks must have been passed. Dogs may be tested singly or in groups.

**Tasks may be taken and passed in any order.**

#### **Test 1**

##### **Accepting a stranger**

This purpose of this task is to see that a stranger can approach the dog and handler in a casual, everyday situation. Ignoring the dog, the Evaluator will walk up to the handler and greet him in a friendly way and shake hands. The dog must show no signs of resentment or shyness and must not leave his position to go to the stranger. Sitting politely for petting by a friendly stranger, with the dog sitting at the handler's side, the Evaluator touches the dog only on the head, neck and body, and then circles the dog and handler which completes the task. The dog must not show shyness or resentment.

#### **Test 2**

##### **Present for examination on a lead**

The handler and dog will present themselves for examination already wearing a collar and lead (i.e. on lead), and harness if desired. The dog will stand for examination by the Evaluator. The Evaluator will satisfy himself that the equipment is of suitable material and correctly fitted. If this is not to the Evaluator's satisfaction, he can ask for this to be adjusted. If this cannot be rectified, the exhibit should be excused from the Test and the sheet marked as 'Not ready'.

The Evaluator will then examine the dog, including a gentle examination of its mouth, teeth,

throat, eyes, ears and feet. The purpose of this task is to see if the dog can be examined by an Evaluator or a Vet without it becoming aggressive or flinching.

**Note. A table may be used for the examination of small to medium sized dogs when necessary.**

**Test 3 Care and responsibility**

The Evaluator will inspect the dog to see if it appears healthy, is clean and groomed. The object of this exercise is to test the handler's ability to groom the dog without a struggle. Grooming performed should be relevant to the individual dog, conducted on a lead and should include all parts of the dog's body. Handlers are required to provide their own grooming equipment. The test also demonstrates the owners care, concern and sense of responsibility.

If the dog being evaluated has not completed a Canine Good Citizen Puppy, the Evaluator should ask the handler five (5) questions from Canine Good Citizen Puppy.

**Note. A table may be used for the examination of small to medium sized dogs when necessary.**

**Test 4 Play with or without toy**

The purpose of this task is to demonstrate that a dog can be calmed easily following praise or play and can leave the task in a well-mannered fashion.

The handler may praise the dog verbally, or by petting, or playing with a toy and/or via a favourite trick. The handler should praise/play with the dog for ten (10) seconds and then calm the dog for the next task. This task can be conducted on or off lead.

**Test 5 Walk on lead without distraction**

The purpose of this task is to demonstrate that the handler is in control. The dog must be on the left side of the handler but need not be in the 'heel' position. There should be no doubt that the dog's attention is on the handler and it responds to movements and changes of direction. The course taken must include a left turn, right turn, an about turn, a stop in between and at the end of the task. The dog does not have to be perfectly aligned with the handler, nor sit when the handler stops. Talking to the dog by the handler is encouraged but snapping of fingers, slapping of sides and stamping of feet must be discouraged.

**Test 6 Walk on lead, passing through a door or gate**

This task may be combined with Walk on Lead Without Distraction.

The dog should walk confidently through the door or gate. The dog must be under control and stationary while the handler opens the gate. The handler may either pass through the gate and invite the dog to come through, or walk through the gate together with the dog. The dog must again be stationary and in control while the handler closes the gate.

**Test 7 Reaction to another dog**

The purpose of this task is to demonstrate the proper behaviour in the presence of other dogs. Starting at a distance of ten (10) metres from each other, two (2) handlers walk towards each other, meet, stop, shake hands, exchange a few words and continue for about five (5) metres. The dogs should demonstrate only casual interest. Neither dog should go to the other dog or handler.

**Test 8 Walk on lead, passing people and dogs**

The purpose of this task is to demonstrate that the dog should have no difficulty in walking through pedestrian traffic. The dog should walk around close to at least four (4) persons one (1) of whom should have a dog. The dog may show interest in the strangers and the dog but should continue to walk without any evidence of shyness or over exuberance and should not be pulling at the lead. Throughout this Task the handler may encourage, praise or talk to the dog.

**Test 9 Reaction to distractions**

This task is to demonstrate the dog is confident at all times when facing a distraction. The Evaluator must select two (2) of the following for this task; they need not be the same for

each dog:

- a) Simulation of a person using crutches, a walker or a wheelchair (manual or motorised) no closer than two (2) metres from the dog.
- b) Sudden opening or closing of a door or gate, or an umbrella.
- c) Dropping a large book or similar object behind the dog but no closer than three (3) metres from the dog.
- d) A jogger passing in front of the dog.
- e) Good natured pushing or shoving or animated talk, excited talk and back slapping by people, with the dog and handler passing within three (3) metres.
- f) Someone pushing a pram, or a cart (e.g. shopping cart or dog cart) from the front or rear and passing within two (2) metres of the dog and handler.
- g) A cyclist or scooter passing in front or from the rear within two (2) metres of the dog and handler.

The dog may express natural curiosity and interest and may startle, but should not panic, try to run away, show aggression or bark excessively.

**Test 10 Release from lead, recall and attach lead**

The purpose of this task is to see if a dog can be recalled and be put back on lead. The handler will release the dog from the lead and then recall the dog and place it back on lead. The handler should leave the dog for about seven (7) paces and then about turn and recall the dog. The dog can be left in any position or held by the Evaluator or an assistant.

**Test 11 Stay in one place**

The purpose of this task is to demonstrate that the dog has some training and will respond to the handler's cue. Taking reasonable time, the handler will cue the dog to either 'sit' or 'lie down', using a reasonable number of cues. He must not force the dog into position. The 'stay' cue is then given and the handler shall walk forward for seven (7) metres. The handler may choose to face the dog, face away or stand side on to the dog. The total length of the stay will be a period of thirty (30) seconds. No further cues may be given until the handler returns to the dog. The handler must return to the dog at a natural walking pace; the dog must maintain its position until the handler returns, and the Evaluator ends the task.

**Test 12 Supervised isolation**

This task is to demonstrate a dog can be left alone if necessary, whilst maintaining its training and good manners. The dog will be attached to a lead of approximately two (2) metres. It does not have to stay in position but should not continually bark, whine, howl, pace unnecessarily or show any behaviour with a mild agitation or nervousness. The handler may stay in sight or go briefly out of sight (e.g. walk around a car). The dogs should be tethered to a stationary object, e.g. tree or fence post. The total length of time of the stay will be approximately one (1) minute.

**Test 13 Food manners**

This is to demonstrate that the dog has good manners when aware of peoples' food. Food should be handled or consumed while the dog, on a loose lead, is taken in close proximity to it. The dog should not unduly respond to this temptation (i.e. not to beg for food or steal).

Note: The Evaluator should be satisfied that the dog has been taken close enough to the food to be aware of it. The food item used should be one that is generally considered desirable to a dog but should not be of overwhelming interest, e.g. liver bread or biltong.

**Certificates and awards**

Once all the Tests have been completed and marked "Passed" *and signed off*, the Club or organising body will issue the dog with a rosette and a numbered KUSA Canine Good Citizen Certificate.

**Fees**

A participating Club or organising body have complete discretion as to decide whether to charge fees for participation and to decide on the amount to charge.

### **CGC Test Documents & Items**

The Bronze level requires the following:

Item	Download from web*	Issued by KUSA to Club / organisers
Test Sheet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Information booklet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Code of Ethics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Care & Responsibility	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Certificate		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rosette		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

\* Club / organisers to inform participants who will download the documents.

The documents are available on the KUSA website by visiting this link <https://www.kusa.co.za/index.php/kusa-initiatives/canine-good-citizen-test>, or alternatively going to [www.kusa.co.za](http://www.kusa.co.za) → Responsible Ownership → Canine Good Citizen Programme

For more information, contact the KUSA office at [applications@kusa.co.za](mailto:applications@kusa.co.za) or call 021 423 9027.

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