



## Frequently Asked Questions

- **Food, Treats, Titbits, Clickers and Toys**  
Treats, clickers or toys should not be used or carried in the hand during each exercise under test; unless required as part of the exercise. They may be used between exercises (although not to an excessive extent). If a dog will not perform the exercise without the use of food, clickers or toys they should be deemed 'not ready'.
- **Whistles**  
Whistles may be used during a training or testing session.
- **Retaking the test**  
When retaking a Good Citizen test – all exercises must be completed, not just an exercise that was deemed 'not ready' before.
- **Second Attempts on Exercises Under Test**  
Second attempts are generally not permitted. However, in exceptional circumstances, at the examiners discretion the examiner may request an exercise is repeated.
- **Use of Muzzle, Head Collar or Halti**  
Muzzles cannot be used in any Good Citizen test. With regard to Halti's and head collars, the examiner should satisfy themselves that when the Halti/head collar is removed the dog will remain under control. This applies to all exercises. Hence, if an examiner requests that a candidate performs the entire test without this equipment, this must be adhered to.
- **Slip leads and Body Harnesses**  
Slip leads, all in one leads or body harnesses (unless required due to a genuine medical condition) are not permitted during a test.
- **Dog Identification Disks**  
Any dog taking part in a Good Citizen Test must wear an identification disc. The law states that any dog that walks in a public place must wear a collar with identification displayed on, or attached to, it. The law states that the information required on an ID disc is the name and address of the owner. Other information (i.e. telephone number) is optional.
- **Companion Dog Shows (Formerly known as Exemption Shows)**  
Only the Bronze Award level can be conducted at Companion Dog Shows, under the supervision and approval of a KC GCDS registered, Listed or Approved Organisation. Silver and Gold Awards must be conducted at Club level or One Day Events only where candidates must be pre-registered. Proof of achievement of the previous level must also be sought before testing commences.
- **Road Walk**  
The road walk featured in the Silver and Gold test MUST be carried out on a public highway and NOT simulated in a training environment. If you are staging a test in a quiet area, examiners can arrange for other club members or spectators to act as distractions i.e. driving car, riding a bike, pushchairs, other dogs etc.
- **Guest Attendees On Test Night**  
At the discretion of each Good Citizen Dog Training approved Training Organisation, the organisation may allow a non-member to attend and take part on test night. This will depend on several factors i.e. club's code of

## The Doggy Centre

### Advice: GCDS Test FAQs



practice, insurance, time and dogs temperament etc.

- **Fees**

There is no charge for taking a Good Citizen test. However, the usual class fee is still required to pay for overheads i.e. hall hire, insurance, judge's expenses etc. If taking a test at a Companion Dog Show or One Day event you will need to pay their fee, which will be set by the organisation conducting the test.

- **Certificates and Rosettes**

The Kennel Club now charge for paperwork, certificates and commemorative gifts. On passing a test, if you would like a souvenir, then please order direct from the Kennel Club.

See <http://www.thekennelclubshop.org.uk/collections/good-citizen-dog-scheme>

#### Links to Kennel Club's GCDS awards:

##### Responsibility & Care - All Levels

<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media/21630/gcdsresandcare.pdf>

##### Puppy Foundation

<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media/21400/gcdspuppy.pdf>

##### Bronze Award

<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media/21392/gcdsbronze.pdf>

##### Silver Award

<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media/21404/gcdsilver.pdf>

##### Gold Award

<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media/21396/gcdsgold.pdf>

Paper copies of these are available at the club.

The Doggy Centre conducts all tests and assessments according to the Kennel Club's Good Citizen Dog Schemes Guidelines.

A handbook is available to buy direct from the Kennel Club.

See <http://www.thekennelclubshop.org.uk/collections/good-citizen-dog-scheme>