



The Doggy Centre GCDS

Good Citizens Dog Scheme

The Doggy Centre is part of Honoured Pets



GCDS Information

Who can take part

- The Scheme is open to all dogs, young or old, pedigree or crossbreed, whether Kennel Club registered or not. Dog owners of any, fitness level or disability can take part too.

What's involved?

- The Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme is the UK's largest dog training programme. The Scheme promotes responsible dog ownership by teaching owners to train their dogs for everyday life situations. There are four levels starting with Puppy Foundation of the Scheme, namely Puppy Foundation, Bronze, Silver and Gold, each one developing an owners understanding, while building a dog's confidence and levels of domestic obedience skills

How do I find my local Good Citizen dog training club?

- **The Doggy Centre** is a listed training club in the Waterlooville area. Telephone or email the training club and ask when the next available course will be taking place.

Can any type of dog take part?

- Yes, pedigree or crossbreed, young or old, the Scheme accepts all dogs and they do not have to be Kennel Club registered.

How old does my dog have to be?

- Training clubs will usually accept dogs of any age after they have completed their vaccination programme. Many clubs will have some tips that they can help you with until you get to the training classes. Clubs will ask to see your dog's vaccination records when you take your dog along for the first time.



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What if I have a naughty dog, will a Club accept me?

- Yes, but it is advisable to contact the training club first and advise them of any problems you are having. You may be able to take your dog along first for an assessment, so that he or she can join the right class, Many of the problems you may face are covered in the Good Citizen Dog Scheme programme.

What will I need to get started?

- Your dog must wear a collar and lead and have a legally compliant identification tag and chip. There are other items like a toy, some treats, a grooming brush, drying towel that you may need but the trainer will advise you about this before hand.

How long does it take?

- Courses normally take place for approximately 45 minutes, once a week. Puppy and Bronze Courses normally take between 6 - 8 weeks to complete, but these will vary Silver and Gold course will take longer.

Who assesses the standard?

- For Puppy Foundation courses, your training Instructor will assess you and your puppy over a minimum 4 week period. For Bronze, Silver and Gold levels, a short test is set at the end of the course and an independent Scheme examiner will assess whether you and your dog meet the required standard.

What do I get if we pass the test?

Each dog and handler is issued with a Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme Certificate relevant to the level of the course you have passed in. Rosettes, pin badges, souvenir dog discs and a range of merchandise is also available at approximately £1.00 - £3.00. The Good Citizen Dog Scheme (GCDS) incorporates four awards, Puppy Foundation, Bronze, Silver and Gold. Each level involves a gradual development of basic exercises included in daily life situations.



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Puppy Foundation

The Puppy Foundation Award specialises in training owners to train their puppies. Enrolment can take place immediately after the second injection. There is no minimum training standard required, as long as the puppy is under 12 months of age when the course is completed. All abilities are accepted.

Bronze

The Bronze Award aims to produce a dog that will walk and behave in a controlled manner. It is a basic standard that all adult dogs can achieve with correct handling. Owners must show that they have means of picking up after their dog and that their dog is wearing a lead and collar with name and the address of the owner inscribed on the collar/disc to take part.

Silver

The Silver Award aims to build on the skills learned in the Bronze award whilst increasing the level of difficulty. It is a natural progression of practical dog training skills and introduces new concepts such as greeting a friend, vehicle control and a road walking exercise which are vital in everyday life situations.

Gold

The Gold Award is the highest level of achievement within the Scheme awards. It builds upon the skills learnt in the Silver Award and develops more advanced training skills of the dog and handler. The Gold Award introduces new concepts such as sending a dog to Bed, Relaxed Isolation, an Emergency Stop and Heelwork off the lead, all of which provide greater understanding and control.

Responsibility & Care

Accompanies all levels of the Scheme and educates owners about responsibilities to their dog and the community.



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Puppy Foundation

- 1 Responsibility and care
- 2 Cleanliness and identification
- 3 Attentive response to name
- 4 Puppy play
- 5 Socialisation
- 6 Handling and inspection
- 7 Puppy recall
- 8 Basic puppy positions
- 9 Walking in a controlled manner
- 10 Stay for approximately 10 seconds
- 11 Take article away from the puppy
- 12 Food manners

Bronze Award

- 1 Cleanliness and identification
- 2 Collar and lead
- 3 Walk on lead
- 4 Control at door/gate
- 5 Controlled walk amongst people and dogs
- 6 Stay on lead for one minute
- 7 Groom
- 8 Present for examination
- 9 Return to handler
- 10 Responsibility and car

Silver Award

- 1 Play with the dog
- 2 Road walk
- 3 Rejoin the handler
- 4 Stay in one place
- 5 Vehicle control
- 6 Come away from distractions
- 7 Controlled greeting
- 8 Food manners
- 9 Examination of the dog
- 10 Responsibility and care

Gold Award

- 1 Road walk
- 2 Return to handler's side
- 3 Walk free beside handler
- 4 Stay down in one place
- 5 Send the dog to bed
- 6 Stop the dog
- 7 Relaxed isolation
- 8 Food manners
- 9 Examination of the dog
- 10 Responsibility and care