

Canine Good Citizen Evaluation



Thank you for signing up for the Canine Good Citizen Evaluation! Below you will find instructions for attending the evaluation as well as the 10 tests your dog will be required to complete in order to receive their Canine Good Citizen Certification. All spcaLA evaluations are held at the *spcaLA P.D. Pitchford Companion Animal Village & Education Center in Long Beach* (7700 E. Spring Street – inside El Dorado Park)

- Please arrive 15 minutes prior to your scheduled appointment in order to allow adequate time for your dog to relieve itself. Elimination during the CGC evaluation is an immediate disqualification.
- At your scheduled time slot, a member of the Behavior and Training Department will meet you at the entrance to the spcaLA Education Center.
- If you are late for your appointment, you may wait until the end of the testing period, as there may be a cancellation.
- In order to reschedule or cancel an appointment, please notify the Behavior and Training Department 24 hours in advance of your scheduled appointment time at training@spcala.com or call 562-570-4910.
- If the Behavior and Training Department is not notified within the terms of our cancellation policy, you will not be issued a refund. If your dog does not pass, you have the option of retesting at a later date.
- For further assistance, information or directions to our shelter, please call 562-570-4910 or email training@spcala.com.

REMINDERS FOR CANINE GOOD CITIZEN TEST

- You may use praise and encouragement throughout the test. The owner may pet the dog between exercises. Food and treats are not permitted during testing, nor is the use of toys, etc. in order to get the dog to comply. We recognize that food and toys may provide valuable reinforcement or encouragement during the training process but these items should not be used during the test.
- For the appearance and grooming test, you should bring your dog's brush or comb.
- The Evaluator may excuse your dog at any time if they feel your dog is showing signs of stress.
- Any dog that growls, snaps, bites, or attempts to bite a person or attack another dog will be dismissed from the test. Refunds will not be issued if your dog is dismissed for these behaviors.

- All tests must be performed on leash. Your dog must be wearing a well-fitted buckle or slip collar (including martingales) made of leather, fabric or chain.
- Body harnesses are allowed as long as they do not restrict movement of the dog, for example no-pull harnesses.
- Your leash should be made of either leather or fabric. Chain or retractable leashes may not be used in the CGC Test.
- Special training equipment such as pinch collars, prong collars, and head collars are not permitted.

THE CANINE GOOD CITIZEN TEST INCLUDES

- **Accepting a friendly stranger**
The dog will allow a friendly stranger to approach it and speak to the handler in a natural, everyday situation.
- **Sitting politely for petting**
The dog will allow a friendly stranger to pet it while it is out with its handler.
- **Appearance and grooming**
The dog will permit someone to check it's ears and front feet, as a groomer or veterinarian would do.
- **Out for a walk (walking on a loose lead)**
Following the evaluator's instructions, the dog will walk on a loose lead (with the handler/owner).
- **Walking through a crowd**
This test demonstrates that the dog can move about politely in pedestrian traffic and is under control in public places. The dog and handler walk around and pass close to several people (at least three).
- **Sit and down on command and staying in place**
The dog must do sit AND down on command, then the owner chooses the position for leaving the dog in the stay.
- **Coming when called**
This test demonstrates that the dog will come when called by the handler (from 10 feet on a leash).
- **Reaction to another dog**
This test demonstrates that the dog can behave politely around other dogs. Two handlers and their dogs approach each other from a distance of about 20 feet, stop, shake hands and exchange pleasantries.

- **Reaction to distraction**

The evaluator will select and present two distractions such as dropping a chair, etc.

- **Supervised separation**

This test demonstrates that a dog can be left with a trusted person, if necessary, and will maintain training and good manners. Evaluators are encouraged to say something like, “Would you like me to watch your dog?” and then take hold of the dog’s leash. The owner will go out of sight for three minutes. The dog does not have to stay in position but should not continually bark, whine, or pace unnecessarily, or show anything stronger than mild agitation or nervousness. Evaluators may talk to the dog but should not engage in excessive talking, petting, or management attempts (e.g, “there, there, it’s alright”).

We look forward to working with you,

