

## **About AKC's Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Program**

The AKC's Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Program started in 1989. CGC is a certification program that is designed to reward dogs who have good manners at home and in the community. The Canine Good Citizen Program is a two-part program that stresses responsible pet ownership for owners and basic good manners for dogs. All dogs who pass the 10-step CGC test may receive a certificate from the American Kennel Club.

The 10 steps are:

1. Accepts a Friendly Stranger
2. Sits Politely for Petting
3. Appearance & Grooming
4. Out for a Walk
5. Walking Through a Crowd
6. Sit, Down, Stay in Place
7. Coming When Called
8. Reaction to Another Dog
9. Reaction to Distractions
10. Supervised Separation

Many dog owners choose Canine Good Citizen training as the first step in training their dogs. The Canine Good Citizen Program lays the foundation for other AKC activities such as obedience, agility, rally, tracking and performance events. As you work with your dog to teach the CGC skills, you will discover the many benefits and joys of training your dog. Training will enhance the bond between you and your dog. Dogs who have a solid obedience education are a joy to live with—they respond well to household routines, have good manners in the presence of people and other dogs and they fully enjoy the company of the owner who took the time to provide training, intellectual stimulation and a high quality of life. We sincerely hope that CGC will be only a beginning for you and your dog and that after passing the CGC test you will continue training in obedience, agility, rally, tracking and performance events.

It has only been a little over one decade and the CGC Program has begun to have an extremely positive impact in many of our communities. This is a program that can help us assure that the dogs we love will always be welcomed and well-respected members of our communities.

Many communities are now providing off leash dog parks and one major rule for attending these parks is that all dogs be socially compatible. The rules require that all dogs be non aggressive and under control, even when off leash, by their owner at all times. CGC and Obedience training will insure that everyone will enjoy these parks and promote more.

If you have not already enrolled your dog in an Obedience Training Program please contact the Lakes Region Kennel Club. The club provides on going 6 - week courses for Beginner and Intermediate Training Classes.

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