

Association of Pet Dog Trainers, UK

Good Companion Foundation Award

Handler Checklist

Name(s):

Date(s):

Dog's Name:

Key: NT = not taken (where a choice exists)

P = passed

MT = more training needed in order to pass

CORE ELEMENTS

Please read details of all the exercises and assessor's notes before starting. Remember that all five CORE exercises must be covered (note the choices in 'Positions' and 'Self Control').

Response to name

The dog should show a clear response to the handler when the name is called.

Greeting Behaviour

The dog on lead held by the handler should behave appropriately when another person approaches.

Lead Walking

The handler and dog will walk for between two and three minutes with one to three dogs also walking on lead in the immediate vicinity (5-10 metres). The walk should demonstrate that the dog understands that the lead should be loose when walking. The dog should maintain a fairly steady position at the handler's side with no cutting in front (possibly for treats) or lagging behind. At this stage, pulling towards other dogs/people may still happen occasionally and if this happens (max of twice in a three minute walk), the handler will be assessed with regards to how they manage and train the behaviour.

Recall

The dog will return to the handler with enthusiasm and speed (relative to age, size and breed) with mild distractions in the immediate environment. The recall should be over the longest reasonable distance.

Positions

The dog will demonstrate good understanding of two out of the following three positions: SIT. DOWN, STAND

Sit : The dog will sit, on cue, first time a. in front of the handler b. to the side as if at a roadside c. in a position of the handler's choice

Down: The dog will lie down, on cue, first time a. in front of the handler from sit b. from stand c. in a position of the handler's choice

Stand: The dog will stand, on cue, first time a. from sit b. from down c. in a position of the handler's choice

Self Control

The dog will complete **three** out of the following **four** options

Food Manners

The dog will wait while a bowl of food is placed in front of him and only proceed to eat it when cued to do so by the handler (minimum 10 second wait).

Door safety

The dog will approach the door with the handler, and wait while the handler walks through the door and only proceed to join the handler when requested.

Vehicle Entry and Exit

The dog will remain under control getting in and out of a vehicle. The dog will therefore only enter the vehicle when cued to do so and only exit the vehicle when cued to do so. The handler should be able to move around and hold a quiet conversation while the dog waits.

Play Manners

The dog will either:

1. Wait while a ball or other toy is thrown and fetch it when released by the handler after a minimum of 5 seconds, or
2. Wait in front of the handler while a tuggy toy is jiggled around considerably for a minimum of 5 seconds and only take the toy when cued to do so.

Choice Elements

2 out of the following 4 should be added to the core elements

Leave

The dog will, on lead while walking, leave (on cue) two separate, moderately interesting items on the floor.

Stay

The dog will perform **both** of the following two 'stay' exercises

1. The dog will stay in a sit, down or stand for 30 seconds while the handler does mildly distracting things approximately 3 metres away. The handler will go back to the dog and release him with a verbal cue.

2. The dog will stay in a different position for 20 seconds while the handler does mildly distracting things approximately 5 metres away and then the handler will release the dog from that distance, and call the dog to him.

Play

The dog will either play:

1. Retrieve – the dog should be asked to wait while the ball/toy/object is thrown, retrieving the item when released and bringing it back to hand x 2

2. Tuggy - the dog will wait while the toy is wiggled, take it when asked, play enthusiastically and give it back when asked x 2

Full Examination

The dog will allow the instructor to conduct an all over body examination including eyes, ears, nose, teeth, tail area, belly, paws etc while remaining reasonably calm.