

## **Basic Obedience Requirements**

The next items are the basic obedience requirements of the **AKC/CGC** Test. I will list them in condensed form in this article, but the dogs must be able to fulfill those requirements before completing this course, or it would be a waste of time for the owner and dog alike.

### 1. Appearance and Grooming

The dog must appear well groomed, clean and must permit a stranger to groom him.

### 2. Accepting a Stranger

The handler must shake hand with a stranger, the dog must not shy or show resentment. Neither must he approach the stranger.

### 3. Walk on Loose lead:

The dog must walk to the left of handler, doesn't have to "heel"

### 4. Walk through crowd

Exercise is done in a crowd of people and dogs that are strangers. The Dog should not have a problem negotiating foot traffic. May show interest in strangers, but not to the extent that he strains at the lead or show resentment.

### 5. Sit for exam

Dog must allow a stranger to approach him and pat him, may not exhibit shyness or resentment.

### 6. Sit and Down on command

Designed to demonstrate that the dog has had some formal training. The dog must respond readily to the handlers command. No force may be used, but more than one command is allowed.

### 7. Stay in position

In either a sit or down, the dog must remain in the position commanded by his handler until the evaluator allows the handler to release.

### 8. Reaction to another dog

The dog should demonstrate no more than casual interest in a strange dog.

### 9. Reaction to distractions

A test of confidence, the dog may show surprise when presented with noises and distractions, but not run away or show aggressiveness.

### 10. Dog left alone

This test shows that a dog has good manners and training. **The handler hands the dog lead to a stranger\*** and leaves the room. The evaluator **stays with the dog\***, observing that there is no excessive stress, nervousness or agitation.

(\*amended by AKC in 1998, many CGC testers will attempt to still tie your dog to a stationary object. If this occurs, run, don't walk to AKC and inform them of this info. It means the tester is not keeping up with AKC rules and regs as well as keeping their training updated.)

**Amendments that SK9S has made to the above tests** to adapt it to therapy needs are as follows:

1. Tell the handler that you are going to touch the dog all over, handling it heavily. Ask if there is any reason that the dog will not allow you to be all over it. All handling is done at the dogs level.
2. Add patting the dog on the head, and conversing with handler.
3. Make a big deal about the brushing and combing. As you do this, drop your clipboard, made a large motion with your arm or body in an attempt to elicit an unusual reaction. Check the dog's nails for proper length, and comment on long nails to owner.
4. Ask the handler to do an obedience routine that is familiar to them; you may call it if they are familiar with that method. Otherwise, have them walk changing directions when you ask, watching them for control and ease of handling.
5. Use the other test takers as a crowd. Use all the dogs and handlers as a group no more than 6 at a time) to test sociability.
6. Sits and Downs are needed in therapy work, so must be done properly.
7. Join in with the handler in praising the dog.
8. Use another dog and handler from the group as greeter for each other using different ones for each dog.
9. Use a variety of noises, stumble near the dog exhibit jerky motions near the dog. Do not attempt to scare the dog from behind.
10. A volunteer handler **HOLDS\*** the leash while the owner leaves the room. (\*Amended by AKC in 1998)
11. Demonstrates WAIT command proficiently.