

# Canine Good Citizen

The American Kennel Club (AKC) started the Canine Good Citizen Program in 1989 as a means of rewarding dogs who were well behaved companions at home and in the community.

## **The goals of the Canine Good Citizen (CGC) program are to:**

- Teach responsible dog ownership to owners.
- Provide basic training and good manners to dogs.
- All dogs, both purebred and mixed breed are eligible to take the CGC test. Those that pass the test receive a certificate from the AKC.

## **The ten components of the training and the test are:**

- Accept a Friendly Stranger
- Sit politely for petting
- Appearance and grooming
- Out for a walk on a loose lead
- Walk through a crowd
- Sit and Down on command and stay in place
- Come when called
- Reaction to another dog
- Reactions to distractions
- Supervised separation.

Classes are offered occasionally to help the dog and handler achieve behaviors that will allow the dog to pass the test. Dogs eligible for this class have completed a minimum of a beginner class, demonstrate a reasonable understanding of basic commands such as sit, down, stay and are able to walk on a loose lead. All exercises are done on lead. Additional information can be obtained from the AKC website [www.AKC.org](http://www.AKC.org).