



**AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB™**

Canine Good Citizen Test

Suggested Best Practices for the Well-Being of Dog Sport Participants

The AKC supports evaluators/clubs informed decision to reschedule, postpone or cancel their respective events, as well as those that are ready to hold events in locations that are open and permit gatherings. As events resume across the country, people need to feel safe while enjoying their dog activities. The AKC urges that appropriate precautions be taken for the benefit of the participants. Events will need to be held in a manner that emphasizes the safety of participants and event officials over efficiency.

The following is a list of suggested best practices that may be helpful when planning or attending an event. Event locations, facilities and dates will differ. With a situation that is continually evolving, it is up to the evaluator/club to determine the guidelines that best fit their event. In order to inform participants, specific guidelines established by the evaluator/club should be published in the premium or pre-event announcements, on their website and posted on signage/flyers at the event.

General Practices

1. Hosts and participants are required to follow state, local and facility guidelines that apply to the area and site where the event is held.
2. Practice social distancing consistent with current guidelines. Avoid congregating to the extent possible.
3. Consider wearing masks when in close proximity to others. Hosts should provide masks if desired for evaluators and volunteers.
4. Consider wearing disposable or washable gloves.
5. Have plenty of hand sanitizers placed for people to use.
6. Wash hands as frequently as possible. Have disinfecting spray at bathroom facilities for people to spray door handles (or anything else they touch).
7. If you utilize portable toilets, please ask for a hand washing station to be delivered as well.
8. Avoid shaking hands or hugging.
9. Avoid touching dogs that are not your responsibility.
10. Avoid common use pens/pencils – bring your own.
11. Disinfect surfaces in common use areas as often as possible (tables, chairs, doorknobs, etc.) Clubs and facilities may consider not providing chairs.

12. Meals - Avoid or stagger group lunches/dinners if possible. It is recommended that hosts supply boxed lunches for evaluators and volunteers. Hospitality areas should avoid community items such as salt and pepper shakers, condiments, creamers, etc. Participants should consider bringing their own lunch/drinks.
13. Parking areas – Park with sufficient distance between vehicles if possible.

Event Practices

1. Scheduling – Consider scheduling participants in blocks in order to reduce crowds.
 - Use SignUp Genius (free downloadable app) if possible or the event secretary assigns dogs to a time block. Possible 30 minute blocks with 5 - 6 dogs per block.
 - Set times for day-of-event entries – assign day-of-event participants a time and number.
2. If possible, consider holding the test outside.
3. Handlers and evaluator should consider wearing masks and gloves.
4. Participants waiting to be tested should practice social distancing. (Option: text or call when it is time for participant to come to the ring.)
5. Safe handling of paperwork and payment for day-of-event entries.
 - Go cashless as much as possible – encourage use of PayPal, Google Pay or EWallet.
 - Cash for day-of-event entries – inform participants they should have correct change.
 - Individual handling paperwork and entry fees should wear gloves.
6. Consider having someone wearing gloves handing out ribbons or rosettes.
7. Have a separate table at least 6 feet from trial secretary table for day-of-event entries and questions.
8. Those involved in the actual test should practice social distancing if possible.

The following test modifications are in effect until December 31, 2020.

Test Modifications – Canine Good Citizen

ITEM AS IT IS CURRENTLY WRITTEN	MODIFICATION
Handshake with Evaluator (greeting)	Handler/Evaluator pretend handshake or elbow bump, evaluator greets handler
Walks through a crowd	Crowd and dog owner wear masks, adjust distance to 6 ft., crowd is Evaluator plus 2
Shake hands (distraction dog)	Handler/helper pretend handshake or elbow bump

Test Modifications – AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy

ITEM AS IT IS CURRENTLY WRITTEN	MODIFICATION
Walks by other people 5 ft. away	Extend distance to 6 ft. away

Test Modifications – AKC Community Canine

ITEM AS IT IS CURRENTLY WRITTEN	MODIFICATION
Walks through a crowd	Walk by people at 6 ft.
Dog walks by distraction dogs – 2 ft.	Walk by dogs at 6 ft.
Sit/stay in small group 3 ft. apart	Add distance to 6 ft.

Test Modifications – Urban CGC

ITEM AS IT IS CURRENTLY WRITTEN	MODIFICATION
Walk through a crowd on busy sidewalk	Stay 6 ft. away from people on sidewalk

Participants are expected to follow state, local government, facility and event guidelines. Hosts should be prepared to enforce the guidelines that apply to their event.

CDC - How to Protect Yourself and Others:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

These Suggested Best Practices may be periodically updated. Please check the AKC Canine Good Citizen website (www.akc.org/products-services/training-programs/canine-good-citizen/) for the most up-to-date version.

For questions or additional suggestions, please contact the AKC Family Dog Department at cgc@akc.org.

Stay Safe – Enjoy Your Dogs