

Want to have fun with your dog?

The Mattoconi Kennel Club (MKC) will offer a community class in basic obedience modeled on the Canine Good Citizen test requirements. At the end of the class, students and their dogs will be offered an opportunity to take the American Kennel Club (AKC) Canine Good Citizen test.

Where: The class will be held at the Prince William County Fairgrounds, 10624 Dumfries Road-Business Route 234, Manassas, VA. There will be signs directing students to the training fields.

Start Date and Times: the class will be held on Thursdays from 7:00pm to 7:50pm starting on April 8, 2021, and continuing for 7 additional weeks – April 15, April 22, April 29, May 6, May 13, May 20 and May 27.

How Many Teams: Limited to 10 dogs and handlers. Will require proof of rabies and that the club waiver and a COVID-19 waiver be signed.

Cost: Classes will be \$100.00 and includes a \$10.00 registration fee. Refunds will be pro-rated for the number of weeks remaining in the class less the registration fee. There will be no refunds following Week 3 of the session.

LESSON PLAN**Week 1**

Introduction to the class, introduce people and dogs –

- Go over the class rules, discuss responsible dog ownership-cleaning up, etc.
- Talk about our philosophy of training (e.g., will you use food lures, clickers).
- Fitting of training collars.
- Meet and greet dogs (petting, ears and feet).
- Demonstrate and practice walking on loose lead.
- Start training Sit.

Skills introduced: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6

Week 2

Ask for any questions or issues students had with their dogs during the week.

- Meet and greet the dogs; touch ears and feet, try a brush or comb.
- Practice and feedback on walk on a loose lead.
- Practice and feedback on sit.
- Demo sit/stay and ask students to try it moving just to the front of their dogs (knees to nose).
- Demo down and try it.
- Introduce coming when called.

Skills practiced or introduced: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7

Week 3

Ask for any questions or issues students had with their dogs during the week.

- New person (asst. or a student while you hold their dog) does meet, greet, brief groom.
- Walk on a loose lead (one at a time with feedback).
- Walk by distraction dog (can use other students at a farther distance and with necessary precautions).

- Practice Sit and sit-stay; down and start down-stay. Add time to sit-stay.
- Practice coming when called

Skills practiced or introduced: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8

Week 4

Greet dogs as students arrive-touch ears, feet, etc. Ask for any questions or issues students had with their dogs during the week.

- Walk on a loose lead-closer to other dogs and near other people.
- Weave in and out of people if students are ready.
- Students show dogs can sit. Sit-stay: add time and distractions. Down and down-stay with added time and distractions.
- Introduce supervised separation. If students bring crates, some can put dogs up and hold dogs of others.
- Practice coming when called-can be done on leash or long line.

Skills practiced or introduced: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

Week 5

Students have been introduced to all skills.

- Practice
- Work on problem areas.
- Add more difficult distractions, add time to stays, start having the owner move away from the dog on the stays which to this point may have been with the owner simply stepping out in front.
- Add distance to come. (Use long lines for safety).

Skills practiced: 1-10

Week 6

Continue to practice and work on problem areas, increasing distances, adding distractions, changing locations and formats for the exercises.

Skills practiced: 1-10

Week 7

Continue to practice and work on any issues.

Try to move students to the full 20-ft. out on the stays, out 10 ft. for come.

Dogs should not be jumping on distraction dog and should tolerate the touching of their ears and feet.

Review and work on any problems.

Skills practiced: 1-10

Week 8

CGC Test Night

All Skills 1-10

CGC Test Elements Explained

After signing the Responsible Dog Owners Pledge, owners and their dogs are ready to take the CGC Test. The test is all done on leash. Items on the Canine Good Citizen Test include:

Skill 1: Accepting a friendly stranger

This test demonstrates that the dog will allow a friendly stranger to approach it and speak to the handler in a natural, everyday situation. The evaluator walks up to the dog and handler and greets the handler in a friendly manner, ignoring the dog. The evaluator and handler shake hands and exchange pleasantries. The dog must show no sign of resentment or shyness.

Skill 2: Sitting politely for petting

This test demonstrates that the dog will allow a friendly stranger to touch it while it is out with its handler. With the dog sitting at the handler's side, to begin the exercise, the evaluator pets the dog on the head and body. The handler may talk to his or her dog throughout the exercise. The dog may stand in place as it is petted. The dog must not show shyness or resentment.

Skill 3: Appearance and grooming

This practical test demonstrates that the dog will welcome being groomed and examined and will permit someone, such as a veterinarian, groomer or friend of the owner, to do so. It also demonstrates the owner's care, concern and sense of responsibility. The evaluator inspects the dog to determine if it is clean and groomed. The dog must appear to be in healthy condition (i.e., proper weight, clean, healthy and alert). The handler should supply the comb or brush commonly used on the dog. The evaluator then softly combs or brushes the dog, and in a natural manner, lightly examines the ears and gently picks up each front foot. It is not necessary for the dog to hold a specific position during the examination, and the handler may talk to the dog, praise it and give encouragement throughout.

Skill 4: Out for a walk (walking on a loose lead)

This test demonstrates that the handler is in control of the dog. The dog may be on either side of the handler. The dog's position should leave no doubt that the dog is attentive to the handler and is responding to the handler's movements and changes of direction. The dog need not be perfectly aligned with the handler and need not sit when the handler stops. The evaluator may use a pre-plotted course or may direct the handler/dog team by issuing instructions or commands. In either case, there should be a right turn, left turn, and an about turn with at least one stop in between and another at the end. The handler may talk to the dog along the way, praise the dog, or give commands in a normal tone of voice. The handler may sit the dog at the halts if desired.

Skill 5: Walking through a crowd

This test demonstrates that the dog can move about politely in pedestrian traffic and is under control in public places. The dog and handler walk around and pass close to several people (at least three). The dog may show some interest in the strangers but should continue to walk with the handler, without evidence of over-exuberance, shyness or resentment. The handler may talk to the dog and encourage or praise the dog throughout the test. The dog should not jump on people in the crowd or strain on the leash.

Skill 6: Sit and down on command and Staying in place

This test demonstrates that the dog has training, will respond to the handler's commands to sit and down and will remain in the place commanded by the handler (sit or down position, whichever the handler prefers). The dog must do sit AND down on command, then the owner chooses the position for leaving the dog in the stay. Prior to this test, the dog's leash is replaced with a line 20 feet long. The handler may take a reasonable amount of time and use more than one command to get the dog to sit and then down. The evaluator must determine if the dog has responded to the handler's commands. The handler may not

force the dog into position but may touch the dog to offer gentle guidance. When instructed by the evaluator, the handler tells the dog to stay and walks forward the length of the line, turns and returns to the dog at a natural pace. The dog must remain in the place in which it was left (it may change position) until the evaluator instructs the handler to release the dog. The dog may be released from the front or the side.

Skill 7: Coming when called

This test demonstrates that the dog will come when called by the handler. The handler will walk 10 feet from the dog, turn to face the dog, and call the dog. The handler may use encouragement to get the dog to come. Handlers may choose to tell dogs to “stay” or “wait” or they may simply walk away, giving no instructions to the dog.

Skill 8: Reaction to another dog

This test demonstrates that the dog can behave politely around other dogs. Two handlers and their dogs approach each other from a distance of about 20 feet, stop, shake hands and exchange pleasantries, and continue on for about 10 feet. The dogs should show no more than casual interest in each other. Neither dog should go to the other dog or its handler.

Skill 9: Reaction to distraction

This test demonstrates that the dog is confident at all times when faced with common distracting situations. The evaluator will select and present two distractions. Examples of distractions include dropping a chair, rolling a crate dolly past the dog, having a jogger run in front of the dog, or dropping a crutch or cane. The dog may express natural interest and curiosity and/or may appear slightly startled but should not panic, try to run away, show aggressiveness, or bark. The handler may talk to the dog and encourage or praise it throughout the exercise.

Skill 10: Supervised separation

This test demonstrates that a dog can be left with a trusted person, if necessary, and will maintain training and good manners. Evaluators are encouraged to say something like, “Would you like me to watch your dog?” and then take hold of the dog’s leash. The owner will go out of sight for three minutes. The dog does not have to stay in position but should not continually bark, whine, or pace unnecessarily, or show anything stronger than mild agitation or nervousness. Evaluators may talk to the dog but should not engage in excessive talking, petting, or management attempts (e.g, “there, there, it’s alright”).