

Grading Criteria – DOMESTIC GRADE 1

General Comments for Grade 1 Assessors:

- (a) Food in the hand is not allowed during the assessment (food can be rubbed on hand and fist closed to trick dog into believing food is there). Dog can be rewarded immediately after each assessment exercise.
- (b) On wet ground a mat can be offered for the “stay” exercises on the second or third attempt.
- (c) Looking for a reasonably biddable dog who generally understands and follows handler’s commands.
- (d) Unless otherwise stated a handler may repeat an exercise once more if failed on first attempt.
- (e) Consultation with the training coordinator or fellow assessors is encouraged for any ambiguity in what is a pass level of obedience during assessments.

Required Assessment Exercises

1. Heel work on lead including straight lines, right turns, about turns and sit on halt.
2. Recall on lead .
3. Sit Stay – at end of lead (30 seconds).
4. Down Stay – at end of lead (1 minute).
5. Restrained recall of 10 metres on a long line – dog held by assessor
6. Socialisation and Temperament:
 - (i) Meeting examiner and being patted without aggression or excessive timidity
 - (ii) Remains calm when another friendly dog walks past at a distance of 2 -3 metres.
 - (iii) Dog comfortable with collar being taken by its handler and moved 2 or 3 steps.
7. Meet legal requirements: Dog displaying current registration and owner carrying poo bag or mode of disposal, collar and lead.
8. Answer three questions on dog owner responsibilities.

Assessing Notes

1. Controlled Walking:

Assessor to call simple heel pattern provided which includes right turns, about turns and halts (where the dog is to sit).

Acceptable:

- the dog is **reasonably** responsive and attentive to the handler, following handler’s course not its own.
- the lead is **mostly loose** – forming a “J” between dog and handler. Occasional corrective tightening of the leash is permissible.
- Handler talking to the dog, and repeating commands.

- Dog sitting askew or slightly in front of handler on halt. Dog going into a down on halt is also acceptable.

Not acceptable:

- **Frequent** correction from handler (as opposed to positive engagement to keep dog attentive)
- dog weaving from side to side. Dog must be consistently on left or right of handler. Wide or behind okay provided not pulling.
- a constantly tight, or **regular** pulling or jerking of the lead. Assessor may require handler to lengthen lead or relax hand position to demonstrate loose lead is being maintained.
- lunging towards any distractions on more than one occasion
- noticeable resentment or reluctance to walk with handler including when handler changes direction
- repeatedly ignoring commands of handler.

2. Recall on lead

Handler to have dog sitting at heel (preferably lefthand side). Dog is to be commanded to wait. Handler to go to end of lead and face dog. Handler is to stand with feet slightly apart. After short delay (3 – 5 seconds) and on assessors command, handler is to call dog to them. Dog is to come to handler and sit in front of handler.

Acceptable:

- Dog sitting askew. Dog may be in a down. Dog preferably on left but may be on right of handler.
- Repeated “wait” and sit commands orally or hand signals or combination of both

Not acceptable:

- Dog not sitting or being down at commencement of exercise after repeated commands.
- Dog changing its position once commanded to wait has been given and before being called by handler e.g going from sit to down.
- Dog moving forward before being called by handler – ie noticeable anticipation of come command or simply following the handler having been asked to wait.
- Dog not coming to handler on being called.
- Dog failing to sit or go down when called to handler after repeated commands.

3. Sit Stay – at end of lead (30 seconds)

In a group setting of no less than three dogs, handler to have dog sitting at heel. Dog is to be commanded to stay. Timing to begin. Handler to go to the end of the lead and face dog. After time completed (30 seconds), handler to return to dog and stand beside dog. Assessor to announce exercise is over having waited two seconds after the handler returns to the dog.

NOTE AT THIS GRADE HANDLERS TO BE GIVEN THREE CHANCES AT COMPLETEING THE SIT STAY AND DOWN STAY EXERCISES. THEY MUST SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE 100% OF EITHER THE SIT STAY OR DOWN STAY AND MAINTAIN A STAY FOR 50% OF THE TIME FOR THE ALTERNATIVE STAY EXERCISE.

Acceptable:

- Dog sitting but being askew next to handler. Dog preferably on left of handler but can be on right.
- Repeated “stay” and “sit” commands orally or hand signals or combination of both
- Dog shifting position on the spot (e.g. adjusting into a puppy sit)
- Walk round by handler not required but if chooses to do so dog must stay in position.

Not acceptable:

- Dog failing to sit after repeated commands
- Dog breaking the stay during the exercise. Assessor to note time of break.
- Dog leaping up on handler or moving from sit position on handler’s return or before assessor advises exercise over.

4. Down Stay – at end of lead (1 minute)

In a group setting of no less than three dogs, handler to have dog down at heel. Dog is to be commanded to stay. Timing to begin. Handler to go to the end of the lead and face dog. After time completed (60 seconds), handler to return to dog and stand beside dog. Assessor to announce exercise is over having waited two seconds after the handler returns to the dog.

NOTE AT THIS GRADE HANDLERS TO BE GIVEN THREE CHANCES AT COMPLETEING THE SIT STAY AND DOWN STAY EXERCISES. THEY MUST SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE 100% OF EITHER THE SIT STAY OR DOWN STAY AND MAINTAIN A STAY FOR 50% OF THE TIME FOR THE ALTERNATIVE STAY EXERCISE.

Acceptable:

- Dog down but being askew next to handler. Dog preferably on left but can be on right of handler. Dog can be on its side in a “Zen down”.
- Repeated “down” and “stay” commands orally or hand signals or combination of both.
- Dog shifting position on the spot (e.g. adjusting from sphinx down to Zen down).
- Handler not walking around the dog on return but it chooses to do so dog must stay in position.

Not acceptable:

- Dog failing to go down after repeated commands.
- Dog breaking the stay during the exercise. Assessor to note time of break.
- Dog leaping up on handler or moving from down position on handler’s return or before assessor advises exercise over.

5. Restrained recall on 10m long line

This exercise is a test of the “come” command, not the “wait” command. Exercise is to be done individually. Handler to ask dog to sit while assessor puts dog on a long line at collar. Handler to take lead off and then ask dog to wait. (As this is an exercise on the “come command”, it is acceptable if dog doesn’t wait or sit and has to be held by the collar, restrained by the assessor). Handler to walk briskly away at least 10m in direction indicated by assessor. Assessor is to ensure that direction is appropriate with no significant distractions between handler and held dog.

Handler to halt, turn to face dog and on assessor's command, call dog. Assessor to release dog. On dog's arrival at Handler, dog to be put back on lead and long line released. Dog to then walk calmly away for at least five metres.

Acceptable:

- Dog does not remain sitting on the "wait command" and is restrained.
- Dog gets mildly agitated when handler departs and it is being restrained by assessor.
- Dog shows some initial hesitation in returning to handler when called.
- Handler repeating the "come" command
- Dog shows some **minor** deviations on its return to handler when called.
- Dog shows some **minor** excitement on walking off with handler.

Not acceptable:

- Dog shows aggression or excessive agitation when handler leaves or when being restrained by assessor.
- Dog does not return to handler when called.
- Dog makes **major** deviations from path of direct return to handler or engages with distractions (eg other dogs) and refuses after multiple commands to return to handler.
- Dog shows significant resistance to walking calmly off with handler when put back on lead.

6. Socialisation and Temperament

(a) Meeting assessor and being patted without aggression or excessive timidity.

Assessor to approach handler and ask to pat their dog. Dog to be sitting or standing beside handler. Assessor to present hand for dog to sniff allowing dog to come forward to hand. Assessor then to pat dog on chest.

Acceptable:

- Dog standing up and approach hand.
- Dog showing mild hesitation or excitement.

Not acceptable:

- Dog jumping up on assessor
- Dog snarling, growling, baring teeth, biting or showing any other aggressive demeanor towards assessor.
- Dog showing excessive timidity (e.g. persistently hiding behind handler or backing away to extent of lead).

(b) Remains calm when another friendly dog walks past at a distance of 2 -3 metres.

Dogs in group to be sitting, standing or down at handlers side. Assessor to have another friendly senior dog on a lead to walk past the group of dogs, without stopping, at a distance of between two and three metres.

Acceptable:

- Dog changes position during the exercise but remains at handlers side.
- Dog shows mild interest in passing dog but remains ostensibly at handlers side.
- Repeated "leave" or similar commands

Not acceptable:

- Dog lunges at passing dog or becomes significantly agitated or excited or barks excessively at passing dog.

(c) Dog comfortable with collar being taken by its handler and moved 2 or 3 steps.

Handler to be asked to grab dogs collar and then, holding the collar, to walk two or three steps.

Acceptable:

- Dog showing mild resistance to collar being grabbed and being walked away.

Not Acceptable:

- Dog showing more than mild resistance to collar being grabbed e.g. growling, snarling, strongly attempting to resist.
 - Dog showing significant resistance to being walked off or showing any aggression towards handler.

7. Meet legal requirements: Dog displaying current registration and owner carrying poo bag or mode of disposal, collar and lead.

Assessor to check dog is displaying current registration disk/tag from local body. That handler has a poo bag or appropriate mode of disposal. That if the dog is wearing an appropriate collar (if slip or "halti "type, that it is fitted correctly) attached to an appropriate lead.

8. Responsible Ownership Questions

Assessor to ask Handlers three questions from list of questions provided.

Handler to answer two correctly.