

Grading Criteria – DOMESTIC GRADE 2

General Comments for Grade 1 Assessors:

- (a) Food in the hand is not allowed during the assessment. Dog may be rewarded immediately after each assessment exercise.
- (b) No mats or blankets for stays.
- (c) As this certificate is relied upon by the WCC for responsible dog ownership a high standard of obedience is expected.
- (d) Stays (both sit and down) must be solid and for the entire test duration. One re-try is permissible on the stay exercises only.
- (e) Consultation with training coordinator or fellow assessors is encouraged for any ambiguity in what is a pass level of obedience during assessments.

Required Assessment Exercises

1. Controlled walking/heelwork on lead including straight lines, right turns, left turns, about turns and sit on halt.
2. Recall on lead
3. Sit stay with dropped lead - returning to dog by walking around (1 minute)
4. Down stay with dropped lead - returning to dog by walking around (1 minute 30 seconds)
5. Meet a stranger and their dog.
6. Socialisation and Temperament:
 - (i) Handler examining dog (including paws, and teeth)
 - (ii) Dog takes treat gently from handler's hand
7. Meet legal requirements of dog in public: Dog displaying current registration and owner carrying poo bag or mode of disposal, collar and lead
8. Five questions on dog ownership responsibilities

Assessing Notes

1. Controlled Walking:

Assessor to call heel pattern provided with straight lines, right turns, left turns, about turns and halts (where dog is to sit).

Acceptable:

- Dog is mostly responsive and attentive to handler.
- Handler talking to dog but only giving "commands" following assessor's calls.
- The lead is loose – forming a "J" between dog and handler. Two corrective tightening of the lead is permissible, but dog must show quick response.
- Dog is consistently on same side of handler and following handler's course and basically at handler's side (not significantly behind or in front).
- The dog stops and sits on "halt" at side of handler and remains stationary until

given another command to move. Two sit commands permitted. Dog going into a down if commanded on halt is also acceptable.

Not acceptable:

- Lead correction from handler on more than two occasions. Assessor may require handler to lengthen lead or relax hand position to demonstrate loose lead is being maintained.
- Need for there to be multiple repeats of commands to get compliance
- Dog deviating from side of handler showing dog is not under control or engaged with handler on more than one occasion
- Lunging towards any distraction.
- Resentment or reluctance to walk with handler as one unit, including when handler changes direction.

2. Recall on lead

Handler to have dog sitting at heel (preferably on left hand side). Dog in a down is acceptable. Dog is to be commanded to “wait”. Handler to go to end of lead and facing dog. Handler is to stand with feet slightly apart. After a delay of not less than 5 seconds, and on the assessors command, handler is to call dog. Dog is to come to handler and sit in front of handler.

Acceptable:

- Dog in a down at beginning of recall.
- A second oral command and/or hand signal at each command.
- No finish required but if done must (a) not be anticipated; (b) be tight to handler’s legs; (c) dog returns to sitting at heel.

Not acceptable:

- Dog not sitting or being down at heel at beginning of exercise after two commands to do so.
- Dog changing its position before being called by handler
- Dog moving forward before being called by handler
- Dog not coming straight to handler on being called.
- Dog failing to obey commands after repeated twice.
- Dog moving from sit before exercise called as completed by assessor

3. Sit Stay – returning to dog by walking around (1 minute)

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, placing lead on the ground. After time completed (1 minute), handler is to return to dog, walking around dog to return to the heel position, and stand beside dog. Assessor to announce exercise is over having waited two seconds after the handler returns to the dog.

Acceptable:

- Dog is sitting at heel on right
- Two sit, two stay commands either orally or hand signal or combination of both.
- Dog shifting position but remaining in same spot (e.g adjusting to puppy sit, or scratching).

Not acceptable:

- Dog not sitting in heel position or changing position once commanded to sit – e.g. standing or going into a down.
- More than two commands being given at each point.
- Dog breaking stay at any point prior to announcement that exercise is over – e.g. getting up after handler returns but before exercise called as over.

4. Down stay with dropped lead - returning to dog by walking around (1 minute 30 seconds)

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, placing lead on the ground. After time completed (1 minute 30 seconds), handler is to return to dog, walking around dog to return to the heel position, and stand beside dog. Assessor to announce exercise is over having waited two seconds after the handler returns to the dog.

Acceptable:

- Dog down at heel on right. Sphinx or Zen down.
- Two down, two stay commands either orally or hand signal or combination of both.
- Dog shifting position but remaining in same spot (e.g. adjusting to Zen down from sphinx down).

Not acceptable:

- Dog not in down heel position or changing position once commanded to go down – e.g. standing or going into a sit.
- More than two commands for at each point.
- Dog breaking stay at any point prior to announcement that exercise is over – e.g. getting up after handler returns but before exercise called as over.

5. Meet a stranger and their dog

Handler and dog to walk in a controlled manner towards another person and their dog which they do not know well. The two handlers will stop (humans shoulder to shoulder – dogs on outside) and exchange a conversation or not less than 30 seconds). Assessor to then indicate handlers may move on in their original directions so they pass each other.

Acceptable:

- Dog remains at handler's side but changes position.
- Dog shows a mild interest in other dog/stranger handler (tail wagging, air sniffing) but does not leave its own handler's side.
- Dog showing mild anxiety and avoidance.
- Handler may give occasional extra command provided dog is responsive and or one mild leash correction to keep dog beside them.

Not acceptable:

- Any threatening or aggressive behavior such as growling or biting
- A need for more than occasional correction of dog by handler to keep dog at his/her side
- Excessive vocalization by dog – barking, whining or howling
- Lunging or over exuberance to dog or stranger
- Display of fear, cringing, hiding or strong avoidance.

6. Socialisation and Temperament

Handler examining dog (including paws, and teeth)

Handler to have dog standing, sitting or lying down. Other than mild avoidance, the dog should allow the handler to inspect the dog's

- Teeth
- Inside of mouth
- Eyes
- Ears
- Front and hind paws – including pads
- Tail and hind quarters

Acceptable:

- Mild avoidance but eventual acceptance

Not acceptable:

- Constant refusal to allow examination
- Threatening or aggressive behavior
- Over exuberance or jumping up
- Display of fear, hiding or avoidance

Dog takes treat gently from handler's hand

Handler to ask dog to sit and then to offer dog a treat from his/her flat palm. Dog to take treat in a non-aggressive manner.

Acceptable:

- Dog takes food quickly but in a non-aggressive manner.

Not acceptable:

- Dog lunges for food
- Dog bites handler or takes food in an aggressive manner

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 five questions from list of questions provided.

Handler to answer three correctly.