

## American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizen (CGC) and Therapy Dog International (TDI)

November 2017

Below are items from the CGC and TDI examinations which look at temperament and obedience:

1. Accepting a friendly stranger.  
The dog needs to show that they are fine with a stranger walking up and speaking to their handler and ignoring the dog. They are looking to see if the dog shows any signs of resentment or shyness.
2. Sitting politely for petting.  
The dog needs to show that they are fine with a stranger touching it without showing shyness or aggression.
3. Appearance and grooming.  
The dog needs to welcome being groomed and examined by someone. The evaluator will check to see if the dog is well cared for and is healthy. The evaluator will softly comb or brush the dog, touch their mouth, touch their ears, tail, and gently picks up each foot.
4. Loose leash walking.  
The handler needs to be in control of the dog while walking. The dog must be attentive to the handler and respond to handler's movements and changes in direction.
5. Walking through a crowd.  
The dog must be able to move about politely in pedestrian traffic and under control in public areas. They need to be able to walk past strangers and be with the handler. The dog cannot jump on people or strain on the leash.
6. Sit and down on command and staying in place.  
The dog must do both sit and down on command and release only when the handler states. In addition, the dog is put on a 20 foot leash with the handler walking away from the dog. The dog must stay until the handler releases the dog.
7. Coming when called.  
After being placed in a stay position the dog comes when directed by the handler.

8. Reaction to another dog.  
The dog needs to behave politely around other dogs. Two handlers and their dogs approach from a distance of 20 feet, stop, shake hands and talk, and then walk away. Neither dog should go to the other dog or handler.
9. Reaction to distraction.  
The dog must remain confident at all times despite common distractions such as a chair being dropped, a dolly rolling past, having someone run in front of them, dropping a crutch. The dog may have some startle response but should not panic, run away, show aggression, or bark.
10. Supervised Separation.  
The dog needs to show good manners and obedience when left with a stranger. The owner will go out of sight for three minutes. The dog cannot bark, whine, pace, pull on the leash, or jump up during the exam.

For additional details on CGC visit their website: [www.akc.org/dog-owners/training/canine-good-citizen](http://www.akc.org/dog-owners/training/canine-good-citizen)

There are additional items on the Therapy Dog International Examination. In addition, this test is conducted as a group so there will be several other dogs and handlers also taking the examination. The dogs must be able to perform with the constant distraction of other dogs and people.

The TDI includes all the CGC items as well as a few additional ones. These include:

1. Visiting with a patient.  
The dog needs to show an interest in meeting new people. They cannot be shy, aggressive, jump up, or not want to go up to the person.
2. The dog must visit with a person on crutches, in a wheelchair, and in a walker.  
There are other sounds that are occurring such as coughing, loud beeps, loud talking, while the dog is walking around in a crowd. They have to be able to behave in public, stay focused on the directions from their handler, not shy, not aggressive, and want to visit with the people.
3. Leave it from a visitor.  
The dog meets a person in a wheelchair which will call them by name and offer them a treat. The handler has to tell the dog to leave it and the dog must walk away from the treat. This simulates a possible situation in a medical facility where medication may be on the ground or the dog being offered food that is harmful such as grapes.
4. Leave it from the floor.  
A piece of food is placed on the floor and the dog is to walk directly over the food without taking it at the instruction of the handler to leave it.
5. Entering through a door to visit.  
A person should be able to go into the room before the dog is instructed to enter by the handler.
6. Reaction to children.  
While loud children are playing the dogs cannot be shy, aggressive, bark, jump up, growl, or lung toward the children.

For additional information on TDI visit their website: [www.tdi-dog.org](http://www.tdi-dog.org)