

Virtual Home Manners

EVALUATOR AND PARTICIPANT GUIDE



October 14, 2020

For more info, see: <http://akc.org/virtual-home-manners/>

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- Puppies and dogs must pass all 10 items on the checklists to earn the titles.
- Forms including Checklists and Title Applications are at: <http://akc.org/virtual-home-manners/>
- Tests must be administered by AKC Approved CGC Evaluators.
- Videos of the tests in action can be viewed at: <http://akc.org/virtual-home-manners/>
- Dogs who have the CGC or advanced titles may also earn Virtual Home Manners titles.

Puppy Title (3 months [12 weeks] to 1 year)

Food may be used as a reward during the test unless otherwise specified (#8, #10).

1. Allows owner to pet the puppy

The puppy will allow the owner to pet its head/chin, shoulders and back.

- For the video, the owner will pet each of the specified areas (head/chin, shoulders, and back) 2 to 4 times in any order.
- The owner may stand, sit, or kneel to pet the puppy.
- The puppy should not resist or try to get away, and should show no signs of aggression. The owner may talk to the puppy while petting.

2. Grooming

The puppy will tolerate brushing (of the back and chest) by the owner.

- For the video, the owner will brush the puppy's back and chest 2 to 4 times in any order.
- The owner may stand, sit or kneel to brush the puppy.
- The puppy may be on a grooming table or platform. If the puppy is placed on a grooming table, the grooming loop (that goes around the neck) should not be used for this test item.
- The puppy should not resist, try to get away, or bite at the brush. The puppy should show no signs of aggression. The owner may talk to the puppy while brushing. The puppy may show interest in the brush.
- Depending on the dog's coat type, the equipment used may be a brush or grooming mitt.
- For breeds with corded coats, owners may arrange/separate the cords.

3. Sit on command – can use lure

The puppy will respond to the owner's cue (verbal, hand signal, or both) to "sit."

- For the video, the puppy will sit 2 times when cued by the owner.
- Depending on the size of the puppy, the owner may stand or kneel.
- A lure (food or toy) may be used to encourage the puppy to sit.

4. Down on command – can use lure

The puppy will respond to the owner's cue (verbal, hand signal, or both) to "down."

- For the video, the puppy will down 2 times when cued by the owner.
- Depending on the size of the puppy, the owner may stand or kneel.
- A lure (food or toy) may be used to encourage the puppy to down.

5. Comes when called

The puppy will come when called from 10 ft. This skill is tested in the house.

- For the video, the puppy will come 1 time when called from 10 ft. by the owner.
- The puppy may be in any position (sit, stand, down) when called.
- Owners may bend over, clap their hands and encourage the puppy to come.
- Puppies do not have to "sit front" when they get to the owner.

6. Go to place

The puppy will go to his or her 'place' and will stay for 15 seconds.

- For the video, the owner will give the cue for the puppy to go to its "place" (or "bed", "crate", etc.). Starting with the puppy at the owner's side, the owner will give the cue (verbal, hand signal or both) and the puppy must go to its "place" 10 ft. away.
- The puppy must lie down in its "place."
- When 15 seconds has passed, the owner may go to the puppy to release it.

7. House-trained

The owner will attest that the puppy is house-trained (or for young puppies, has a house training plan in place).

- Say if the puppy is house-trained or working on it.
- How old was your puppy when you got it? How long have you had your puppy?
- What was your system for housetraining?

- Demonstrating outside that your dog will “go potty” on cue is optional for the video.

8. Demonstrates relationship – no food rewards in this exercise

The owner (or a family member) and puppy will demonstrate that they have a good relationship by playing together. The puppy will play indoors with the owner or family member.

- For the video, the owner and puppy will demonstrate playing for about 10 seconds.
- The owner will choose at least 1 activity for play: a stuffed animal, ball, simple trick, preferred game, etc.
- Depending on the activity, the owner may stand, kneel or sit.

9. Out for a walk

The puppy will walk on a leash (outside) for at least 20 ft. two times.

- For the video, the owner and puppy leave the house and go outside for a walk. The video may stop between the previous trick dog indoors and start again once the owner and puppy are outside.
- The owner and puppy should walk at least 20 ft. and stop, then walk another 20 ft. For the second 20 ft., the owner may choose to do an about turn and return to the starting point.
- The puppy does not have to sit when the owner stops.
- The puppy should be walked on a regular leash (not a retractable leash). The puppy may wear a buckle collar, martingale, or body harness.
- If the puppy has been trained, the owner may cue the puppy to “heel,” but the heel position is not required.
- The puppy should not be pulling on the leash. The owner may use food to encourage walking on a loose lead.

10. Exercise outside – no food rewards in this exercise

The owner or a family member will provide the puppy with structured (owner facilitated) outdoor exercise.

- The puppy will fetch a toy/ball/soft disc, chase, swim, or run with the owner.
- For the video, about 10 seconds of exercising should be shown.

Adult Title (4 months - on)

Food may be used as a reward during the test unless otherwise specified (#8, #10).

1. Allows owner to pet and groom the dog

- The exercise begins with the owner briefly petting and talking to the dog.
- After briefly petting the dog, the owner will brush the dog. The dog will allow the owner to brush its head/chin, shoulders, back, chest and belly in any order.
- The dog owner will also check the ears and feet briefly.
 - For the video, the owner will pet the dog briefly and then brush each of the specified areas (head/chin, shoulders, back, chest and belly) 2 to 4 times in any order.
 - Depending on the size of the dog, the owner may stand, sit, or kneel to pet and groom the dog.
 - The dog may be placed on a grooming table or platform. If the dog is placed on a grooming table, the grooming loop (that goes around the neck) should not be used for this test item.
 - The dog should not resist or try to get away, and should show no signs of aggression. The owner may talk to the dog during petting and grooming.
 - The dog may lie on his/her back while his/her belly is brushed.
 - Depending on the dog's coat type, the equipment used may be a brush or grooming mitt.

2. Sit on command – no lure

The dog will respond to the owner's cue (verbal, hand signal, or both) to "sit."

- For the video, the dog will sit 1 time when cued by the owner.
- The owner will stand in front of or to the side of the dog and will give the dog a hand signal and/or verbal cue such as, "Sit" or "[Dog name], sit."
- Lures or "pretend food" in a closed hand may not be used to guide the dog into position, but food rewards following the behavior are acceptable.

3. Down on command – no lure

The dog will respond to the owner's cue (verbal, hand signal, or both) to "down."

- For the video, the dog will down 1 time when cued by the owner.
- The owner will stand in front of or to the side of the dog and will give the dog a hand signal and/or verbal cue such as, "Down" or "[Dog name], down."

- Lures or “pretend food” in a closed hand may not be used to guide the dog into position, but food rewards following the behavior are acceptable.

4. Comes when called

The dog will come when called from 20 ft. or another room. This skill is tested in the house.

- For the video, the dog will come 1 time when called from 20 ft. by the owner. Or, with the dog in another room, the owner will call the dog to come.
- The dog may be in any position (sit, stand, down) when called. A helper may be with the dog in another room if this version of the skill is selected.
- The owner should give a single command such as a verbal cue, “Come!” or “[Dog’s name] Come!” rather than “Come, Come on, Come, Come!” A hand signal may also be used (alone or with the verbal command).
- Dogs do not have to “sit front” when they get to the owner.

5. Manners related to food

Will demonstrate good manners in the presence of food. This exercise is done indoors.

- For the video, choose one of these two options:
 - 1) the owner sits to have a snack, or
 - 2) the owner places the dog’s dish (with food) on the floor.
 - OWNER SITS TO HAVE A SNACK
 - Owner sits at table or counter and eats a snack. The dog should be nearby. The dog can sit or lie down, and should be under control and not begging.
 - There should be about 10-15 seconds of video for this skill.
 - When the owner is finished eating, the dog may be rewarded with a treat.
 - OWNER PUTS DOG’S DISH DOWN
 - Owner puts some food in the dog’s dish.
 - Owner may take the dish to where the dog is fed.
 - Owner puts the dish down. The owner may cue the dog, “Wait” or “Get back” if necessary.
 - Owner may say something like, “Okay,” to indicate to the dog he can eat the food (dog has waited about 5 seconds).
 - The dog should not be pushy, lunging for the food, etc.

6. Doorbell or knock on door – Dog behaves appropriately

The dog will behave appropriately when the doorbell rings or there is a knock on the door.

- For the video, a helper can ring the doorbell, or the owner can activate a doorbell sound.
- When the doorbell rings or someone knocks, the dog should not bark excessively. The dog should be under control.
- The owner may cue the dog to sit, down, or go to its place before opening the door.
- The owner should open the door and say a few words, (to the helper or a pretend person), then close the door.
- The dog may be rewarded for staying in a sit, down, or at its place.

7. Go to place/crate – Stay 1 minute

The dog will go to his or her 'place' or crate and will stay for 1 minute.

- For the video, the owner will give the cue for the dog to go to its "place" (or "bed", "crate", etc.). Starting with the dog at the owner's side, the owner will give the cue (verbal, hand signal or both) and the dog must go to its "place" 10 ft. away.
- The dog must lie down in its "place."
- When 1 minute has passed, the owner may go to the dog to release it.
- If a crate is used, the owner may choose to leave the door open or closed.
- The dog may be rewarded at the end of 1 minute if it has stayed in its place.

8. Demonstrates relationship – no food rewards in this exercise

The owner (or a family member) and dog will demonstrate that they have a good relationship by playing together. The dog will play indoors with the owner or family member.

- For the video, the owner and puppy will demonstrate playing for about 10 seconds.
- The owner will choose at least 1 activity for play: hide & seek, scent game with 3 cups, do a trick, play with a toy (stuffed animal, etc).
- Depending on the activity, the owner may stand, kneel or sit.

9. Out for a walk

The dog will walk on a leash (outside).

- For the video, the exercise will begin indoors with the owner saying something to the dog such as, “Let’s go for a walk.”
 - The owner will put the leash on the dog and exit the door. The dog must remain under control and not drag the owner out of the door.
 - The video may stop after exiting the door and start again once the owner and dog are outside.
- Once outside, the owner and dog should take a short walk to include a turn or about turn, and a brief fast pace of 4 to 5 steps (“Let’s hurry!”)
 - The dog does not have to be in the heel position.
 - The dog does not have to sit when the owner stops.
 - The total time for the demonstration of the walk outside will should be about 10 to 15 seconds.
- The dog should be walked on a regular leash (not a retractable leash). The dog may wear a buckle collar, martingale, or body harness.
- If the dog has been trained, the owner may cue the dog to “heel,” but the heel position is not required.
- The dog should not be pulling on the leash. The owner may use food to encourage walking on a loose lead.

10. Exercise outside

The owner or a family member will provide the dog with structured (owner facilitated) outdoor exercise.

- The dog will fetch a toy/ball/soft disc, chase, swim, or run with the owner.
- For the video, about 10 seconds of exercising will be shown. If the dog earned the Virtual Home Manners Puppy title, choose another form of exercise to demonstrate in this VHM Adult video.

For any questions, contact: cgc@akc.org