



Training

A trained dog is a happy dog

Who can take part

- The Scheme is open to all dogs, young or old, pedigree or Crossbreed, whether Kennel Club registered or not. Dog owners of any, fitness level or disability can take part too.

What's involved?

- The Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme is the UK's largest dog training programme. The Scheme promotes responsible dog ownership by teaching owners to train their dogs for everyday life situations. There are four levels starting with Puppy Foundation of the Scheme, namely Puppy Foundation, Bronze, Silver and Gold, each one developing an owners understanding, while building a dog's confidence and levels of domestic obedience skills

How do I find my local Good Citizen dog training club?

- [Click here to find training clubs.](#) All training clubs list the area where the venue is located. Telephone or email the training club contact and ask when the next available course will be taking place.

Can any type of dog take part?

- Yes, pedigree or crossbreed, young or old, the Scheme accepts all dogs and they do not have to be Kennel Club registered.

How old does my dog have to be?

- Training clubs will usually accept dogs of any age after they have completed their vaccination programme. Many clubs will have some tips that they can help you with until you get to the training classes. Clubs will ask to see your dog's vaccination records when you take your dog along for the first time.

What if I have a naughty dog, will a Club accept me?

- Yes, but it is advisable to contact the training club first and advise them of any problems you are having. You may be able to take your dog along first for an assessment, so that he or she can join the right class, Many of the problems you may face are covered in the Good Citizen Dog Scheme programme.

What will I need to get started?

- Your dog must wear a collar and lead and have a legally compliant Identification tag (see the Good Citizen Dog Scheme website for more information). There are other items like a toy, some titbits, a grooming brush, drying towel that you may need but the trainer will advise you about this before hand.

How long does it take?

- Courses normally take place for approximately 45 minutes - 1 hour, once a week. Puppy and Bronze Courses normally take between 6 - 8 weeks to complete, but these will vary Silver and Gold course will take longer.

Who assesses the standard?

- For Puppy Foundation courses, your training Instructor will assess you and your puppy over a minimum 4 week period. For Bronze, Silver and Gold levels, a short test is set at the end of the course and an independent Scheme examiner will assess whether you and your dog meet the required standard.

What do I get if we pass the test?

- Each dog and handler is issued with a Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme Certificate relevant to the level of the course you have passed in. Rosettes, pin badges, souvenir dog discs and a range of merchandise is also available.