

## ADDITIONAL RULES FOR TDI TESTING

1. Dogs must be tested on a plain buckle collar or harness. Training collars, training harnesses, halties, or any other corrective training devices are not permitted during testing or visiting as a TDI-registered Therapy Dog.
2. Dogs must be a minimum of one year old to be tested.
3. Handlers under 18 years of age must have a parent/legal guardian present.
4. Greyhounds are not required to sit for TDI Testing.

**Note:** Potential applicants are not required to take any Therapy Dog classes which are not sanctioned by TDI.

### **TDI ADDITIONS TO THE AKC'S CGC TEST**

*TDI registration is a natural extension of the AKC-CGC for dogs who are particularly sensitive and attentive to people. Canine membership includes all breed and mixed-breed dogs. All dogs are tested and evaluated for Therapy Dog work by Certified TDI Evaluators. While many dogs provide love and companionship in the home, not all dogs are qualified or have the temperament suited to be a Therapy Dog.*

**For more information on the  
AKC Canine Good Citizen Test, contact:**

**The AKC's Canine Good  
Citizen Department**  
(919) 816-3637  
e-mail: [cgc@akc.org](mailto:cgc@akc.org)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

### **Therapy Dogs International (TDI®)**

88 Bartley Road  
Flanders, NJ 07836  
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## THE THERAPY DOGS INTERNATIONAL (TDI®) TESTING REQUIREMENTS

WHICH INCLUDES SOME STEPS OF THE  
AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB'S  
CANINE GOOD CITIZEN  
TEST®



*Therapy Dogs International (TDI®) is an organization dedicated to the regulation, testing, selection, and registration of qualified dogs and handlers for the purpose of visitations to hospitals, nursing homes, and facilities or any place where Therapy Dogs are needed.*

**DEMONSTRATING CONFIDENCE AND CONTROL, THE DOG MUST COMPLETE THESE 15 STEPS OF THE AKC/CGC TEST® AND THE ADDITIONAL TDI REQUIREMENTS.**

(Note: At check-in, before beginning Test 1, the owner must present a current rabies certificate and any other state or locally required inoculation certificates and licenses.)

*TDI additions to the AKC-CGC Test are in italics and printed in red.*

**TEST 1: ACCEPTING A FRIENDLY STRANGER**

This test demonstrates that the dog will allow a friendly stranger to approach it and speak to the handler in a natural, everyday situation. The Evaluator and handler shake hands and exchange pleasantries. The dog must show no sign of resentment or shyness, and must not break position or try to go to the Evaluator.

**TEST 2: SITTING POLITELY FOR PETTING**

This test demonstrates that the dog will allow a friendly stranger to touch it while it is out with its handler. The dog should sit at the handler's side as the Evaluator approaches and begins to pet the dog on the head and body only. The dog may stand in place to accept petting. The dog must not show shyness or resentment.

**TEST 3: APPEARANCE AND GROOMING**

This practical test demonstrates that the dog will welcome being groomed and examined and will permit a stranger, such as a veterinarian, groomer, or friend of the owner, to do so. It also demonstrates the owner's care, concern, and sense of responsibility. The Evaluator inspects the dog, then combs or brushes the dog, and lightly examines the ears and each front foot.

**TEST 4: OUT FOR A WALK  
(WALKING ON A LOOSE LEASH)**

This test demonstrates that the handler is in control of the dog. The dog can be on either side of the handler, whichever the handler prefers. There must be a left turn, a right turn, and an about turn, with at least one stop in between and another at the end. The dog need not be perfectly aligned with the handler and need not sit when the handler stops.

**TEST 5: WALKING THROUGH A CROWD**

This test demonstrates that the dog can move about politely in pedestrian traffic and is under control in public places. The dog and handler walk around and pass close to several people (at least three). The dog may show some interest in the strangers, without appearing overexuberant, shy, or resentful. The handler may talk to the dog and encourage or praise the dog throughout the test. The dog should not be straining at the leash.

**TEST 6: SIT AND DOWN ON COMMAND/STAYING IN PLACE**

This test demonstrates that the dog has training, will respond to the handler's command to sit and down, and will remain in the place commanded by the handler (sit or down position, whichever the handler prefers). The handler may take a reasonable amount of time and use more than one command to make the dog sit and then down. When instructed by the Evaluator, the handler tells the dog to stay and walks forward the length of a 20-foot line. The dog must remain in place, but may change position.

**TEST 7: COMING WHEN CALLED**

This test demonstrates that the dog will come when called by the handler. The handler will walk 10 feet from the dog, turn to face the dog, and call the dog. The handler may use encouragement to get the dog to come. Handlers may choose to tell the dog to "stay" or "wait," or they may simply walk away, giving no instructions to the dog as the Evaluator provides mild distraction (e.g., petting).

**TEST 8: REACTION TO ANOTHER DOG**

This test demonstrates that the dog can behave politely around other dogs. Two handlers and their dogs approach each other from a distance of about 10 yards, stop, shake hands and exchange pleasantries, and continue on for about 5 yards. The dogs should show no more than a casual interest in each other.

**TEST 9: REACTIONS TO DISTRACTIONS**

This test demonstrates that the dog is confident at all times when faced with common distracting situations, such as the dropping of a large book or a jogger running in front of the dog. The dog may express a natural interest and curiosity and/or appear slightly startled, but should not panic, try to run away, show aggressiveness, or bark.

**TEST 10: REACTION TO MEDICAL EQUIPMENT**

*The dog must be tested around medical equipment (such as wheelchairs, crutches, canes, walkers, or other devices which would ordinarily be found in a facility) to judge the dog's reactions to common health care equipment.*

**TEST 11: LEAVE-IT**

*The handler with the dog on a loose leash walks over food on the ground and, upon command, the dog should ignore the food.*

**TEST 12: ACCLIMATION TO INFIRMITIES**

*This test demonstrates the dog's confidence when exposed to people walking with an uneven gait, shuffling, breathing heavily, coughing, wheezing, or other distractions which may be encountered in a facility.*

**TEST 13: SUPERVISED SEPARATION**

This test demonstrates that a dog can be left with a trusted person, if necessary, and will maintain its training and good manners. Evaluators are encouraged to say something like, "Would you like me to watch your dog?" and then take hold of the dog's leash. The owner will go out of sight for three minutes. The dog does not have to stay in position but should not continually bark, whine or pace unnecessarily, or show anything stronger than mild agitation or nervousness.

**TEST 14: SAY HELLO**

*The TDI Certified Evaluator will test the willingness of each dog to visit a person and that the dog can be made readily accessible for petting (i.e., small dogs can be placed on a person's lap or can be held; medium and larger dogs can sit on a chair or stand close to the patient to be easily reached.)*

**TEST 15: REACTION TO CHILDREN**

*The dog must be able to work well around all types of populations, including children. The dog's behavior around children must be evaluated during testing. It is important that during the testing the potential Therapy Dog and the children are not in direct contact. This means the dog can only be observed for a reaction toward children playing, running, or present in general at the testing site. Any negative reaction by the dog will result in automatic failure. Negative reaction means a dog showing signs of aggression.*

*\*\*Please see additional rules for TDI Testing on back cover.*