



APDT, UK Good Companion Awards Stage 1 Adult Beginner Exercises Handler List

- All participants need to pass the Core Elements before moving on to the 'Choices'.
- All exercises must comply with the APDT UK Code of Practice and positive motivational methods must be employed at all times.
- Clickers, food and toys may be used wherever needed and appropriate at this stage for rewarding but not luring behaviour.
- All owners should be carrying poo bags.
- All dogs must be wearing a suitable collar / fixed harness with ID tag

Core Elements

Response to name

- The dog should show a clear response to the handler when the name is called, or signalled in the case of dog who is deaf.

Greeting Behaviour

- The dog on lead held by the handler should behave appropriately when another person approaches.

Lead Walking

- The handler and dog will walk for 30 seconds to one minute with one other dog and handler also walking on lead in the immediate vicinity (5-10 metres).
- The walk should demonstrate that the dog understands that the lead should be loose when walking.
- The dog should maintain a fairly steady position at the handler's side with no cutting in front (possibly for treats) or lagging behind.
- At this stage, pulling towards the other dog/person may still happen occasionally and if this happens the handler will be assessed with regards to how they manage and train the behaviour.
- A question should be asked on restraint equipment suitable to aid LLW for use with their own dog.

Recall

- The dog will return to the handler with enthusiasm and speed (relative to age, size and breed).
- There should be no distractions in the immediate environment.
- The recall should be over the longest reasonable distance.

Positions

- The dog will demonstrate good understanding of two out of the following three positions: SIT, DOWN, STAND using a visual/and or verbal cue.

Sit

The dog will sit, on cue, first time

- a) in front of the handler
- b) in a position of the handler's choice

Down

The dog will lie down, on cue, first time

- a) in front of the handler from sit OR stand position
- b) in a position of the handler's choice

Stand

The dog will stand, on cue, first time from sit OR down using a cue/signal.

Stay

The dog will perform two 'stay' exercises

- 1) The dog will stay in a sit, down or stand for 30 seconds while the handler is approximately 3 metres away. The handler will go back to the dog and release him with a verbal cue.
- 2) The dog will stay in a sit, down OR stand position whilst the handler walks round the dog. The handler will then release the dog from.

Full Examination

- The dog will allow the handler to conduct an all over body examination including eyes, ears, nose, teeth, tail area, belly, paws etc. while remaining reasonably calm.
- A question should be asked on points to look for whilst executing this exercise.

Self-Control

The dog will complete **three** out of the following **four** options

Food Manners

The dog will wait while a bowl of food is placed in front of him and only proceed to eat it when cued to do so by the handler (minimum 10 second wait).

Door safety

The dog will approach the door with the handler, and wait while the handler walks through the door and only proceed to join the handler when requested.

Vehicle Entry and Exit

The dog will remain under control getting in and out of a vehicle. The dog will therefore only enter the vehicle when cued to do so and only exit the vehicle when cued to do so.

Play Manners

The dog will wait in front of the handler while a tuggy toy is jiggled around gently for a minimum of 2 seconds and only take the toy when cued to do so.

Choice Elements

- 1 out of the following 2 should be added to the core elements

Leave

The dog will, on lead, leave (on cue) a tasty treat placed on the floor at a maximum distance of 30 centimetres for a minimum of 10 seconds.

Group Control

The dog will wait in a controlled manner for a minimum of 1 minute within a group of 3 or 4 other dogs and handlers who have met up and having a 'chat'.