

Black Hawk Canine Good Citizen

Responsibility and Care Guidelines (as at 2017)

The below information is intended as a guide only and should not be considered as an exhaustive list of a dog owner's responsibilities. CGC R&C questions will be primarily taken from this section, and possibly, from other legislation and relevant local regulations or by-laws.

Section 1 - LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES

It is recommended you are particularly familiar with these regulations and by-laws.

1. **The legal obligations of a dog owner** (Section 5, Dog Control Act 1996)
 - a. To register their dog with a relevant Local Authority before the age of three months and thereafter, during the month of July each year. The minimum age a person can be the registered owner of a dog is 16 years.
 - b. To have their dog microchipped (except working dogs) within 2 calendar months of its first registration and be able to provide proof of this if required.
 - c. To promptly notify all relevant Local Authorities of any change of address or ownership of the dog;
 - d. To ensure that the dog is kept under control at all times.
 - e. To ensure the dog receives proper care and attention and is supplied with proper and sufficient food, water and shelter.
 - f. To ensure the dog has adequate exercise.
 - g. To take all reasonable steps to ensure that dog does not cause a nuisance to any other person, whether by persistent and loud barking or howling or by any other means.
 - h. To take all reasonable steps to ensure that dog does not injure, endanger or intimidate or otherwise cause distress to any person.
 - i. To take all reasonable steps to ensure that dog does not injure, endanger or distress stock, poultry, domestic animals or protected wildlife.
 - j. To take all reasonable steps to ensure that dog does not damage or endanger property belonging to any other person.
 - k. To comply with the Dog Control Act and all regulations and bylaws made under the Act.
 - l. To ensure dogs travelling on the deck of a truck/ute are:
 - Tethered, with the tether short enough that the dog cannot leap off the deck
 - Provided with a non-slip surface.
 - Provided with shelter.

2. Dog Control Act 1996 and Code of Welfare: Dogs 2010.

This legislation pertains nationwide. Key amended provisions of Dog Control Act came into force from 1 December 2003.

- a. A person may, for the purpose of stopping an attack, seize or destroy a dog if—
 - i. the person is attacked by the dog; or
 - ii. the person witnesses the dog attacking any other person, or any stock, poultry, domestic animal, or protected wildlife.
- b. Schedule 4 of the Dog Control Act 1996 restricts the importing, breeding and sale of the following types/breeds of dogs.

They currently are:

- i. **American Pit Bull Terrier;**
- ii. **Dogo Argentino;**

- iii. **Brazilian Fila;**
- iii. **Japanese Tosa**
- iv. **Perro de Presa Canario**

These breeds are currently classified as menacing and so must wear a muzzle in public.

- c. Containment and Tethering (Extract from Code of Welfare Minimum standard 4).
 - I. Dogs must not be contained or tethered in a way that causes them injury or distress.
 - II. Collars must fit comfortably without damaging the skin or restricting breathing.
 - III. Dogs should not be left unattended or routinely tethered by choke chains or other devices which tighten around the neck.
 - IV. A correctly fitted collar allows space between the collar and the neck so that it does not restrict breathing or chafe against the hair and skin of the dog's neck, but is secure enough that it cannot slip its head from the collar.
 - V. A harness can be used to restrain a dog with the advantage of distributing pressure over the chest rather than the neck.

3. **Legislation and Local Authority Dog Regulations**

Each Regional and Local Authority has their own bylaws which essentially describes how dogs must be controlled in public places to reduce the likelihood of dangerous behaviour and nuisance situations arising.

These Bylaws are specific to that area and can include:

- i. control of dogs on leash;
- ii. dog exercise areas;
- iii. public places;
- iv. fouling in public places;
- v. permit to keep more than one dog;
- vi. and dog control fees.

It is essential to make yourself familiar with your particular Local Authority dog control rules and any Local Authority areas that you regularly visit.

4. **Legislative requirements regarding off-leash areas and dog access**

Local - The Dog Control Act 1996 and the Local Government Act 2002, allow Regional and Local Authorities to create by-laws in relation to:

- Requiring dogs, other than working dogs, to be controlled on a leash in specified public places, or in public places in specified areas or parts of the district:
- Regulating and controlling dogs in any other public place:

It is your responsibility to be aware of the Regional and Local Authority By-laws in your area and to obey them,

Never walk your dog off leash if there are public notices that prohibit this.

National Parks - Dogs are prohibited from entering National Parks and owners can be fined up to \$3000 if found to be in breach of this.

Conservation Land - The Department of Conservation regulates dog access into forest parks and conservation parks.

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/plan-and-prepare/dog-access/types-of-access/>.

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/activity-finder/dog-walking/>

Summary of Guidelines

- Keep your dog under control, preferably with a leash, at all times
- A dog out of sight is a dog out of control
- Carry a leash and use it
- Ensure that your dog does not disrupt other people's enjoyment of the park
- Clean up after your dog

5. Disease control – you can help prevent the spread of diseases

If you are planning to enter or to pass across farm land with your dog you must have permission from the farm owner or occupier.

To prevent the spread of disease such as sheep measles, the landowner may require you to have your dog dosed before entering their property.

Dog faeces may contain harmful bacteria or diseases that can easily spread to farm animals, so be sure to remove your dog's waste.

Do not allow your dog to swim in water troughs.

Section 2: BEST PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Further responsibilities of ownership

The following is a guide to responsible ownership, for your dog and the public:

- a. Do not feed the dog from your plate but from its own bowl.
- b. Dogs like a bed of their own, so provide one.
- c. Bathing is sometimes necessary but should be done in moderation.
- d. Your dog must not be allowed out on its own to wander the neighbourhood.
- e. Do not allow the dog to foul in an inappropriate place.
- f. If fouling does occur in a public place, always clean up after the dog.
- g. Never take your dog into a restaurant or a shop that sells food.
- h. Do not leave your dog unattended if you go away on holiday.
- i. Consider neutering (talk it over with your vet) to avoid unwanted puppies.
- j. If you want your bitch to have puppies, seek the advice of experts before doing so (e.g., the breeder of your dog, your vet, local breed club). That way, you are able to make an informed and responsible decision and understand the commitment and risks involved.
- k. Always ensure that your dog is wearing a collar of some type, with a current Local Authority identification tag attached. This tag must be registered to the dog wearing it.
- l. Dogs need to be able to feel part of the family (its "pack"). However, the dog must not become a leader of their family (its "pack").
- m. Dogs should not be tied up or left unattended while wearing a slip chain or slip style collar.

2. Health and Illness

To keep a dog in good health, you should:

- a. Take your dog to the vet at least once a year for a full health check-up and follow their recommendations regarding vaccinations.
- b. Regularly rub your hands over the dog's body to check for burrs, thistles ticks or lumps and bumps; if any abnormalities are found you should see a vet
- c. Regularly clean and groom your dog and ensure no part of the coat becomes matted;
- d. Give your contact details, your vet's address and phone number to any person looking after your dog whilst you are away;
- e. Check and control fleas and/or ticks – Fleas are usually found around the neck, abdomen and tail areas on the dog. Live adult fleas may not be visible but “flea dirt” is usually present. If there is an allergy/infection from flea infestation, veterinary advice should be sought.
- f. Dose for worms – Roundworm, Tapeworm and Hookworms can infest pups and dogs. It is recommended dogs be wormed every six months with pregnant bitches and puppies more often under veterinary advice.

In good health a dog should display the same demeanour from day-to-day.

So, should any of the following occur, you should immediately seek veterinary advice:

- i. A dog with a normal healthy appetite refuses to eat.
- ii. A normally active dog becomes lethargic.
- iii. A dog vomits several times.
- iv. An adult dog has loose motions or diarrhoea lasting more than 24 hours. Earlier intervention may be required for puppies and/or small dogs.
- v. There is loss of blood.
- vi. A dog is unconscious.
- vii. A dog has a fit or seizure.

3. Dog Weight Guidelines¹

- a. Dogs should be fed to maintain their body weight within the normal physiological range, no matter how much physical activity they have.
- c. The food offered should be sufficient in amount and appropriately balanced in nutrients to meet their physiological needs.
- c. Dogs should be fed at least once a day, and it is generally best to divide their daily ration into two, fed in the morning and in the evening.
- d. Working dogs should be fed at the end of their working day. A small meal an hour or two before exercise may be beneficial before prolonged periods of work.
- e. There are many good quality, complete and balanced commercial dog foods available. Diets may be home-mixed provided they are complete and balanced.

¹ Dog Weight Guidelines: Taken from: Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Dogs Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, c/- Ministry of Agriculture, PO Box 2526, Wellington. Code of Animal Welfare No. 20, ISBN 0-478-07459, ISSN 1171-090X, May 1998

- f. An all-lean-meat diet, such as farm-killed lean mutton, does not provide a balanced diet.
- g. Certain prohibitions apply to the feeding of meat and offal from livestock to dogs.
- h. Ideal body weight may be affected by breed, age or gender.
- i. Body condition can be scored from 0 to 9 as outlined in the following table.

BODY CONDITION SYSTEM TABLE²			
U N D E R F E D	1	Ribs, lumbar vertebrae, pelvic bones and all bony prominences evident from a distance. No discernible body fat. Obvious loss of muscle mass.	EMACIATED
	2	Ribs, lumbar vertebrae and pelvic bones easily visible. No palpable fat. Some evidence of other bony prominence. Minimal loss of muscle mass	VERY THIN
	3	Ribs easily palpated and may be visible with no palpable fat. Tops of lumbar vertebrae visible. Pelvic bones becoming prominent. Obvious waist and abdominal tuck	THIN
I D E A L	4	Ribs easily palpable, with minimal fat covering. Waist easily noted, viewed from above. Abdominal tuck evident	UNDERWEIGHT
	5	Ribs palpable without excess fat covering. Waist observed behind ribs when viewed from above. Abdomen tucked when viewed from the side.	IDEAL
O V E R F E D	6	Ribs palpable with slight excess fat covering. Waist is discernible viewed from above but is not prominent. Abdominal tuck apparent.	OVERWEIGHT
	7	Ribs palpable with difficulty, heavy fat cover. Noticeable fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent or barely visible. Abdominal tuck may be absent.	HEAVY
	8	Ribs not palpable under heavy fat cover, or palpable only with significant pressure. Heavy fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent. No abdominal tuck. Obvious abdominal distension may be present.	OBESE
	9	Massive fat deposits over thorax, spine and base of tail. Waist and abdominal tuck absent. Fat deposits on neck and limbs. Obvious abdominal distention.	GROSSLY OBESE

² BODY CONDITION SYSTEM (BCS) is validated in the following publications: Mawby D, Bartges JW, Moyers T, et. Al. Comparison of body fat estimates by dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry and deuterium oxide dilution in client owned dogs. *Compendium* 2001;23 (9A):70. Laflamme DP Development and Validation of a Body Condition Score system for Dogs. *Canine Practice* July/August 1997;22:10-15. Kealy, et. al. Effects of Diet Restriction on Life Span and Age-Related Changes in Dogs *JAVMA* 2002;220:1315-1320

4. Dogs Off-Leash - Responsible Off-Leash Practices

- a. Only take your dog off leash if it has a reliable recall back to you, in any environment and under any distraction.
- b. Never take your dog off leash if there is traffic around.
- d. Always have your dog on leash or under strict voice control in areas where there is livestock, or birdlife.

5. Dogs travelling in a vehicle

- a. Dogs should be secure in a vehicle; either in a cage, station-wagon barrier; or dog car harness.
- b. Never leave your dog in a vehicle parked in the sun. Even in mild weather, a vehicle can heat up and kill your dog very quickly.
- c. Should you be in a position where you must leave your dog in a vehicle, always park your vehicle under shade, even in the winter months. Remember that shade moves throughout the day. Without compromising security, leave windows open for ventilation.
- d. Be aware that dogs may become territorial when in your vehicle. This can lead to aggressive (protective) behaviour towards strangers who may inadvertently approach your vehicle. If present, reprimand any territorial behaviour. Advise people to never put their hand through a window or door.
- e. Dogs should leave the vehicle in a controlled manner, either on a leash or under strict control to stay with you.
- f. Avoid carsickness problems or stress by taking your dog out for short trips, gradually increasing their length as the dog becomes used to travelling.
- g. Try to keep your dog in a calm state of mind whilst travelling.
- h. Dogs should not distract the driver.
- h. Never let your dog travel with its head out of the window.
- j. How a dog behaves in a vehicle on the first few journeys will form its habits for its lifetime.
- k. Dogs travelling on the deck of a truck/ute must be:
 - Tethered, with the tether short enough that the dog cannot leap off the deck (It is recommended the dog be tethered from two points or at the centre of the deck so they cannot inadvertently fall off the side).
 - Provided with a non-slip surface.
 - Provided with shelter.

6. Equipment Recommendations

- a. A dog's leash must be used or carried by the handler whenever your dog is in public. It should be comfortable to hold at any part of its length. It should be in good condition (i.e., no worn stitching, chewed areas or a clip that may not be reliable).
- b. There are many types of "collars" available on the market to help you walk your dog in a controlled manner (e.g., halti, gentle leaders, harness leaders, slip chain, etc.). Make sure you have the type that suits your dog. Seek advice on the correct method of use for each type of restraint.
- c. With the exception of a standard leather or webbing collar, no restraint should be left on your dog whilst unsupervised.

- d. Choose a restraint that will not break under strain and check that it fits correctly (e.g., if a dog suddenly backs up, it cannot slip out of its collar).
- e. The dog's current Local Authority registration tag must always be worn in public.

7. Dogs and children

It is an adult's total responsibility to protect children from the dog and the dog from children. Hence, children must be taught how to behave around dogs.

Specifically:

- a. Never make sudden movements close to a dog.
- b. Never scream or suddenly yell close to a dog.
- c. Never approach a dog from behind.
- d. Never approach a dog that is tied up.
- e. Always ask permission before touching a dog they do not know.
- f. Never lunge at or startle a dog, particularly if it is asleep.
- g. Never put their face close to a dog's face.
- h. Never blow into the dogs face.
- i. Never eat food close to a dog.
- j. Never tease or pull a dog's body or coat.
- k. Always wash their hands after playing with a dog.
- l. If a dog gives a warning growl, instruct the child that it must leave the dog alone.
- m. Children should be reminded to respect all dogs.
- n. Never leave a child alone with a dog.
- o. Supervise any play between children and dogs.
- p. Instruct the child to leave a dog alone if the dog is eating.

Dog attacks on children are nearly always the result of the lack of appropriate education and supervision.

The highest proportion of dog bites to children are by dogs known to the child or family.

8. Babies

- a. When the family has a baby, it is natural that much attention will be given to the new arrival. It is therefore important that the dog does not become resentful of the new "pack member". Owners should ensure that the dog's daily routine continues and the dog receives the same attention and discipline as previously.
- b. Never leave a baby or young child alone with a dog and supervise all interaction between baby and dog.
- c. It is recommended that when first allowing the dog to have contact with the baby that they be allowed to sniff the baby's bottom or feet and not their face.

9. Excessive barking

- a. Excessive barking is a nuisance and could lead to relations with your neighbours disintegrating. If your dog is barking excessively, find out the reason why and put measures in place to stop it.
- c. Ensure the dog has adequate activities and exercise.
- d. Consider changes to gating or fencing to reduce view or provide a “neutral” space before the dog’s boundary.
- b. Communicate with your neighbours and tell them you are trying to find out the cause of the excessive barking and to put a stop to it. If need be, ask them to help, which will make them feel like you are being proactive and considerate.

10. More than one dog (multi-dog households)

If owning more than one dog:

- a. Make sure each individual dog gets attention, affection and guidance.
- b. Training all dogs at the same time can lead to distraction, confusion and inter-pack competition. Set times aside for each dog to get the same one-on-one attention.
- c. Once each dog is sure of obedience commands, make sure all dogs obey at the same time and in the same manner.
- d. “Pack” behaviour is more evident in multi-dog families. Learn about pack behaviour and body language from dog clubs, internet and books, so you can prevent bad intra-pack behaviour before it starts.

11. Socialisation

Socialising puppies and dogs is extremely important.

To not do so can result in fear-aggression later in the dog’s life.

- a. Puppies can start socialising prior to their final vaccination provided they are carried when in public areas and only introduced to known vaccinated dogs in secure controlled environments. The puppy should be introduced to as many new experiences and people as possible before it is 16 weeks of age as this is the optimal period for socialising.
- b. Introduce the puppy or dog to everything it will encounter in its life (e.g., people, other animals, children, cars, etc.) in a gradual and controlled manner, so each part is not an overload and therefore frightening.
- c. You, as owner, should always be confident in each new situation, so the pup/dog will take its cue from you.
- d. Puppies should stay with their mother and littermates until at least 8 weeks to ensure that they learn canine social skills including initial bite inhibition.
- e. The ideal age to move a puppy from its litter to a new home is 8-10 weeks as this is considered an optimal age to handle change and bond with the new owners.

12. Territorial behaviour

- a. Dogs are naturally territorial (i.e., they “protect” what they consider as their territory, which can include a vehicle). They display this behaviour usually by excessive barking and/or rushing behaviour, which can escalate out of control.
- b. Suggestions to “control” your dog’s territorial behaviour:
 - i. Distract the dog by calling and then rewarding when the dog comes to you.

- ii. Put the dog into a down stay and enforce it until the dog calms down.
- iii. Put your dog in areas of the property that reduces his excuse to protect (e.g., confined to back yard, instead of front yard).

13. Playing with your dog

- a. Play behaviour (e.g., chasing and tugging) are watered-down predatory behaviours. These behaviours can be more pronounced in some breeds than in others (e.g., a Border Collie is more likely to chase a ball, whilst a Terrier will tend to not let go with a tug game).
- b. Games are important to build a relationship with your dog. The main rule to follow is YOU start the game and YOU finish the game. Always play the game following your rules, not the dog's.
- c. Have a few toys to play with your dog that they do not have access to at other times.
- d. Never allow teeth on skin even in play. If this occurs immediately stop the game.
- e. Avoid rough housing or wrestling games.

14. Unacceptable or insecure behaviour

- a. Constant company, excessive reassurance and/or touching given to a dog may cause stress when it is left on its own. The result may be excessive barking, whining/howling, and/or destructive behaviour. Condition your pup/dog to separation from an early age. If the stress levels or destructive behaviour are significant then it is recommended that professional advice is sought.
- b. Excessive aggression – There are several reasons why a dog can become aggressive. It is recommended to seek the advice of your local dog obedience club or the assistance of a professional dog behaviourist in the analysing and correcting of any aggression problems.

Section 3 DOG TRAINING THEORY

1. How does a dog learn?

A dog is constantly learning. They learn by understanding what is to their advantage or disadvantage by:

- a. **Reinforcement** – if something is rewarding or gets rewarded it is likely to be repeated (if a dog jumps up on a person and they pet it as a result it is likely to try this again to get attention).
- b. **Repetition** - (if the dog is always required to sit at the curb-side, it will eventually sit at every curb-side automatically);
- c. **Routine** of the dog within its family (when owners are getting ready to go to bed, dog knows the place it will be put to sleep at night);
- d. **Trial and error** – discovering pleasurable experiences (sitting under the dining room table in the hope of a dropped tit bit) and not so pleasurable experiences (disturbing the cat resulting in the dog getting a scratch);
- e. **Insight** – combining two experiences to form a new experience (owner gets the dog's leash, dog is then put in the car = time at the park);
- f. **Mimicry** – watching and imitating (a new dog in the household learns to use a dog door by following an older dog already using it);
- g. **Instinctive** - behaviour that occurs without any prior experience (a young male dog begins to urinate on vertical surfaces once male hormones have developed).
- h. **Extinction** - the elimination of a behaviour through continued ignoring or lack of reward.

When teaching a dog good behaviour, it must be remembered:

- a. Inconsistency causes confusion. If sometimes you let a dog jump up on your lap and

other times, you don't, the dog will be confused and it will delay the learning process;

- b. Praise or discouragement allied to the dog's behaviour must be immediate. The dog will only recognise the praise or discouragement to a particular behaviour within two seconds of the act;
- c. When play, praise and reward are linked to teach a dog, the result is a happy dog;
- d. When there is a problem with your dog's learning, don't immediately work at the symptom. Instead, try to think like a dog to find the cause of any problems before attempting to reverse it.