

MINUTES OF THE CANINE GOOD CITIZEN COMMITTEE

HELD ON SUNDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2024

PRESENT: Lucy Sandford-Reed, Merenia Donne, Chris Tew, Kat Thorstrand, Arend van den Bos, Deborah Gillam, Brian Harris

APOLOGIES: Irma Harris

MINUTES OF PAST MEETING:

Minutes of the last meeting (29 September 2024) had not yet been presented. As Sue was not present, no explanation as to why was available.

EC FEEDBACK:

Brian reported that the EC was not presented with a CGC report at their last EC meeting.

Arend stated that a report had indeed been sent (within the required time frame) to Dogs NZ, which therefore had clearly not been passed on.

AV to supply Brian with evidence that a report had indeed been sent.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- Probation reports were received for Deborah Gillam and Margaret McArthur. Deborah and Margaret have now completed all pre-requisite criteria and shall be listed on the Dogs NZ CGC Foundation/Bronze Assessors Panel.

AV to request Dogs NZ to have Deborah and Margaret listed on the Dogs NZ CGC Webpage's Assessors Panel.

- Applications were received from Annabel Busby and Karen Mudgway to become CGC Assessor's. The committee unanimously endorsed both applications, who shall now be instructed on the processes required to achieve her goal.
- A request has been received from Bridie Manning to be removed from the CGC Assessors Panel.

AV to request Dogs NZ to have Bridie Manning unlisted from the Dogs NZ CGC Webpage's Assessors Panel.

- Assessment reports were received from:
 - Selwyn Dog Training Club
 - Titahi Bay Dog Training Club
 - Central All Breeds Dog Training School
 - Napier Dog Training Club
- Following a request to all CGC Assessors to provide feedback regarding the recently introduced Café Exercise, the following comments were presented to the committee. Only one response indicated negativity for the current Café exercise criteria. All other respondents indicated considerable positivity for the introduction of the Café Exercises.

Some comment was made that a very small number of dogs appeared to have difficulties in maintaining the down position. This was however considered to be more an issue of inadequate training rather than exercise difficulty.

There was also comment that the Silver and Gold requirements were almost identical.

Following further considerable discussion, it was suggested that perhaps the Silver Café exercise could be conducted within a public environment such as a shopping mall, garden centre or public playground, whereas the Gold exercise be conducted at a commercial café.

It was agreed that a change to further differentiate the degree of difficulty of the Café exercise between Silver and Gold was required, and that further discussion on this matter be deferred to the next committee meeting.

All to consider possible alterations of the Silver and Gold Café exercises to enhance differentiation between levels.

- Discussion ensued regarding securing dogs during vehicle exercises. It was unanimously agreed that for Assessment Vehicle Exercise purposes, dogs **MUST** be secured by a car Harness or confined in a cage, and **NOT** simply a collar. A recommended amendment to the CGC Manual's wording to ensure this will be made shall be submitted to the Dogs NZ EC.

AV to provide suitable amendment of Exercises 16; 24 & 31 to ensure that dogs must be secured by means of a Harness or confined in a cage while in a vehicle for the purposes of Exercises 16; 24 & 31.

- Kat and Lucy provided some anecdotal discussion, focusing on how dogs displaying aggressive behaviour during assessments led to eventual legal actions.
- Chris raised the question of how to assess vehicle exercises when a handler was too young to drive. Consensus of the committee was to have a parent or guardian do the driving.
- Chris raised the issue of encountering overweight dogs at assessment. Following discussion, it was proposed that assessors should be permitted the right to refuse assessing of overweight dogs, and that the CGC Manual contain a clause to this effect.

CT to draft a proposed clause, concerning overweight dogs, for the CGC manual.

- DG raised the question as to whether Double Leads were permitted in assessments. Consensus was that they were, albeit the fact that they looked cumbersome and restricted a dog's movement.
- MD and CT suggested the possibility of introducing new exercises for dogs which would tie in with the proposed Urban Programme.

MD & CT to draft potential exercises to enhance a CGC Urban Program crossover.

Next meeting: 26 January 2025