

# The Canadian Kennel Club Canine Good Neighbour Program



The CGN program was developed by the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) to encourage responsible dog-ownership and to improve dogs' acceptance as valued members of the community.

The CGN program involves a series of 12 non-

competitive challenges during which dogs are evaluated on their ability to perform basic exercises and demonstrate good manners in everyday situations. Performances are scored by CKC-certified evaluators. Dogs and handlers that pass all 12 challenges are awarded a *CKC Canine Good Neighbour* certificate.

Detailed information on the 12 CGN challenges is available from the Canadian Kennel Club website: [ckc.ca](http://ckc.ca). Check with local obedience clubs for the dates of their next CGN tests.



DOG OWNERS ASSOCIATION  
RESPECT · TOLERANCE · COOPERATION

## Advocacy, Education, and Canine Community Building

**CITIZEN CANINE Dog Owners Association** works to promote and support responsible dog ownership in Greater Victoria. Our three areas of focus are *advocacy*, *education* and *canine community building*.

Since our formation in 2004, **CITIZEN CANINE** has been working on behalf of dog owners in the region. Our efforts include creating and distributing informational materials, hosting education and training seminars for dog owners and professionals, and organizing canine community building events such as our annual *Everybody and Their Dog Walk*.

For more dog-related information, go to:

[citizencanine.org](http://citizencanine.org)



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# Good Owners, Good Dogs

*Your Guide to  
Responsible  
Dog Ownership*

[citizencanine.org](http://citizencanine.org)

# What Does it Mean to be a Responsible Dog Owner?

There are a lot of responsibilities involved with having a dog. Beyond providing food, water, shelter and health care, dog owners are also responsible for making sure their dogs get enough companionship and exercise.

This pamphlet describes some things you can do to be a responsible dog owner and to help your dog be a good canine citizen. Together, we can build a strong community of responsible dog owners and maintain our access to parks, trails and other public green spaces in the region.

## Training Your Dog

Dogs depend on their owners to keep them safe. To do this, dog owners must train their dogs how to behave appropriately around people, other dogs, horses, bikes, motor vehicles and other potential dangers.

There are many different approaches to dog training. This is both good and bad for dog owners and dogs because having so many options can make it difficult to find the one that is best for you and your dog. Before you decide, do some research at the library or online, talk to your veterinarian and ask for recommendations from family or friends with dogs.



It is never too late to train your dog. Even an older dog can learn new skills and overcome problem behaviors. There are many qualified dog trainers and behaviorists in Greater Victoria that can help.

When choosing training, grooming or other dog services, remember to be an advocate for your dog. If you are not satisfied or comfortable with a service, find another provider.

# How to be a Responsible Dog Owner

- Provide your dog with proper nutrition, shelter and grooming as well as consistent veterinary care that includes spaying or neutering and vaccinations.
- Give your dog adequate exercise, activities and companionship.
- Show others how to safely interact with your dog.
- Obey dog-related bylaws in your community; license your dog and keep your dog on a leash except where off-leash access is allowed.
- Pick up and dispose of your dog's waste properly.
- Leave your dog at home instead of alone in your car. It can get dangerously hot inside a car very quickly, even when it is not that warm outside.
- Learn about and use positive training techniques to teach your dog good manners, including basic obedience commands like come, sit and stay.
- Keep your dog on a leash when it is outside until you are certain it will come back to you quickly and reliably when you call.
- Respect the lead of owners whose dogs are kept on leash, or called back when other dogs approach. Put your dog on a leash also or have close control when passing by leashed dogs.
- Socialize your dog early; the time between 8 to 16 weeks of age is critical for introducing puppies to as many kinds of dogs, people and environments as possible. Off-leash interactions between puppies and other dogs should be closely supervised.
- Supervise your dog in public places; do not let it dig, damage plants, chase vehicles or wildlife, or harass or behave aggressively toward people or other dogs.
- Seek expert help if your dog shows aggression toward people or other dogs.
- Recognize that, as the owner of a dog, you are liable for any damage done by your dog.

# Sharing Parks and Trails Responsibly

Respect, tolerance and cooperation among all park and trail users is vital to sharing public green spaces successfully.



Nobody appreciates stepping in dog waste or being jumped on by out-of-control dogs. In fact, most complaints about sharing parks and trails with dogs relate to two things: dog waste and uncontrolled dogs. Be part of the solution instead of part of the problem. **Always** carry your own supply of dog waste bags, pick up after your dog and keep your dog under control.

To keep your dog safe and demonstrate responsible dog ownership, follow these simple guidelines:

**Keep your dog on a leash except in areas where off-leash recreation is allowed.** Even in off-leash areas, do not unleash your dog until you are certain it will return quickly and reliably when you call.

**Anticipate and respect that some people, especially young children, might be afraid of your dog.** If you sense a person might be afraid of dogs, leash your dog, step to the edge of the trail and have your dog sit quietly until the person has passed.

**Share the trail.** Parks and trails are meant to be enjoyed by everyone. Do not allow your dog to block the trail or bother other users. If your dog is on a leash, do not allow it to lunge at people or other dogs, or to bark at others on the trail.

**Stay on the trail.** Ensure your dog is visible to you, stays on the trail and is within calling range at all times.

*Please do your part to protect access to public green space for dogs.*

