

## **Route 66 Rottweiler Club CGC Training Program**

The Rottweiler is a working dog and for many years the ultimate temperament test for the Rottweiler has been the German Rottweiler Club's (ADRK) breed test called the Ztp (Zuchttauglichkeitsprüfung). The Ztp is a test that combines correct conformation with correct temperament. The temperament part of the test includes a gun sureness test, a protection test, and a test to ensure the dog is stable around the public. Then in 2018, the first ever ADRK BSE (Breed Standard Evaluation)—a test like the Ztp without the protection work—was held at Landesgruppe Chicago's 2018 Sieger Show in Pontiac, IL.

The Ztp and BSE can only be done at shows where an ADRK German Rottweiler judge is judging at and there usually are only a couple of these offered each year here in the United States; some years there are none offered. Many of the places that offer shows with ADRK judges are held in places that do not allow protection work and guns, so there can be no Ztp or BSE tests. However, there is a way to test your Rottweiler's temperament and mental stability in just about every part of the United States.

The AKC's Canine Good Citizen (CGC) program will test any dog's temperament and mental stability in a little different way than the Ztp or BSE but it will show that your Rottweiler has a good temperament. The CGC is a certification program started in 1989 that is designed to reward dogs who have good manners at home and in the community. The Canine Good Citizen Program is a two-part program that stresses responsible pet ownership for owners and basic good manners for dogs. All dogs who pass the 10-step CGC test may receive a certificate from the American Kennel Club.

The Route 66 Rottweiler Club offers AKC CGC training and testing by three AKC approved instructors who all have been working with or living with Rottweilers for almost 30 years. The Route 66 Rottweiler Club offers group training from April until October and has two CGC classes and tests during this time frame.

Here is a description of what the AKC's CGC program includes:

Before taking the Canine Good Citizen test, owners will sign the Responsible Dog Owners Pledge. Responsible dog ownership is a key part of the CGC concept and by signing the pledge, owners agree to take care of their dog's health needs, safety, exercise, training, and quality of life. Owners also agree to show responsibility by doing things such as cleaning up after their dogs in public places and never letting dogs infringe on the rights of others.

The Route 66 Rottweiler Club's trainers teach everyone how to fulfill the Responsible Dog Owners Pledge during the CGC classes. We also teach the owners and the dogs the basic obedience that every dog should be able to do consistently when told to: heel on leash in the correct position, sit, down, stay, and come on command.

Next are the 10 parts to the CGC test:

### **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 walks up to the dog and handler and greets the handler in a friendly manner, ignoring the dog. 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. With the dog sitting at the handler's side, to begin the exercise, the evaluator pets the dog on the head and body. The handler may talk to his or her dog throughout the exercise. The dog may stand in place as it is petted. 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 someone, 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 to determine if it is clean and groomed. The dog must appear to be in healthy condition (i.e., proper weight, clean, healthy and alert). The handler should supply the comb or brush commonly used on the dog. The evaluator then softly combs or brushes the dog, and in a natural manner, lightly examines the ears and gently picks up each front foot. It is not necessary for the dog to hold a specific position during the examination, and the handler may talk to the dog, praise it and give encouragement throughout.

These first 3 tests are very similar to what the ADRK judge does when examining a Rottweiler for both the Ztp and the BSE.

### **Test 4: Out for a walk (walking on a loose lead)**

This test demonstrates that the handler is in control of the dog. The dog may be on either side of the handler. The dog's position should leave no doubt that the dog is attentive to the handler and is responding to the handler's movements and changes of direction. The dog need not be perfectly aligned with the handler and need not sit when the handler stops. The evaluator may use a pre-plotted course or may direct the handler/dog team by issuing instructions or commands. In either case, there should be a right turn, left turn, and an about turn with at least one stop in between and another at the end. The handler may talk to the dog along the way, praise the dog, or give commands in a normal tone of voice. The handler may sit the dog at the halts if desired.

### **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 but should continue to walk with the handler, without evidence of over-exuberance, shyness or resentment. The handler may talk to the dog and encourage or praise the dog throughout the test. The dog should not jump on people in the crowd or

strain on the leash.

### **Test 6: Sit and down on command and staying in place**

This test demonstrates that the dog has training, will respond to the handler's commands to sit and down and will remain in the place commanded by the handler (sit or down position, whichever the handler prefers). The dog must do sit AND down on command, then the owner chooses the position for leaving the dog in the stay. Prior to this test, the dog's leash is replaced with a line 20 feet long. The handler may take a reasonable amount of time and use more than one command to get the dog to sit and then down. The evaluator must determine if the dog has responded to the handler's commands. The handler may not force the dog into position but may touch the dog to offer gentle guidance. When instructed by the evaluator, the handler tells the dog to stay and walks forward the length of the line, turns and returns to the dog at a natural pace. The dog must remain in the place in which it was left (it may change position) until the evaluator instructs the handler to release the dog. The dog may be released from the front or the side.

The 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> tests are also very similar to what the ADRK judge does when evaluating the Rottweiler's temperament, but without any protection work or gun shots.

### **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 dogs to "stay" or "wait" or they may simply walk away, giving no instructions to the dog.

### **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 20 feet, stop, shake hands and exchange pleasantries, and continue on for about 10 feet. The dogs should show no more than casual interest in each other. Neither dog should go to the other dog or its handler.

### **Test 9: Reaction to distraction**

This test demonstrates that the dog is confident at all times when faced with common distracting situations. The evaluator will select and present two distractions. Examples of distractions include dropping a chair, rolling a crate dolly past the dog, having a jogger run in front of the dog, or dropping a crutch or cane. The dog may express natural interest and curiosity and/or may appear slightly startled but should not panic, try to run away, show aggressiveness, or bark. The handler may talk to the dog and encourage or praise it throughout the exercise.

### **Test 10: Supervised separation**

This test demonstrates that a dog can be left with a trusted person, if necessary, and will maintain 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.

Any dog that growls, snaps, bites, attacks, or attempts to attack a person or another dog is not a good citizen and must be dismissed from the test. While the AKC CGC is not a perfect replacement for the Ztp or BSE as a Rottweiler Breed Test it is an excellent test to see if the Rottweiler has a stable temperament. If a Rottweiler has an AKC CGC or obedience title along with a "V" or "SG" rating at a Sieger Show, then it is a fairly safe bet that the Rottweiler has the correct conformation and temperament for breeding.

The CGC test and the Sieger Show do not require any health tests so I feel that I need to emphasize that a responsible and ethical breeder will have passing hip and elbow certifications and a JLPP test on their Rottweilers before breeding as required by the ADRK. With only a handful of Rottweiler Sieger Shows held in the United States every year and then with only a couple of those having ADRK judges I think that the AKC CGC test is a way that Rottweiler owners in the United States can show their Rottweiler is mentally stable.

The AKC has on its website a list of approved CGC Evaluators and where they can be found along with their contact info. I also looked at the AKC statistics for 2020 and 2019 to see how many Rottweilers earned CGC titles and put this in comparison with the number of Rottweilers who earned an AKC Championship and AKC BN and CD obedience titles and how many Rottweilers earned the CGCA (Advanced Canine Good Citizen) title.

### **Rottweiler statistics in 2020**

94 Rottweilers became Champions

36 Rottweilers earned a CD title

29 Rottweilers earned a BN title

299 Rottweilers earned a CGC title

33 Rottweilers earned a CGCA title

### **Rottweiler statistics in 2019**

210 Rottweilers became Champions

81 Rottweilers earned a CD title

71 Rottweilers earned a BN title

441 Rottweilers earned a CGC title

88 Rottweilers earned a CGCA title

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