



The Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme

SPECIAL PRE- BEGINNER OBEDIENCE STAKES Heats during 2015

Show Date	Name of Show
SUNDAY 19 TH APRIL 2015	KNIGHTSWOOD DTC
SATURDAY 25 TH APRIL 2015	FINDON DOWNS DTC
SUNDAY 3 RD MAY 2015	CHESVALE DTC
SUNDAY 10 TH MAY 2015	PLYMOUTH DTC
SUNDAY 17 TH MAY 2015	CULVERSTONE DTC
SATURDAY 23 RD MAY 2015	WARLINGHAM DTC
SUNDAY 24 TH MAY 2015	EXETER DTC
SUNDAY 7 ST JUNE 2015	PETERSFIELD & DISTRICT DTC
SATURDAY 27 TH JUNE 2015	BILLINGSHURST DTC
SUNDAY 28 TH JUNE 2015	IRVING VALLEY DTS
SUNDAY 5 TH JULY 2015	CHADKIRK DTC
SATURDAY 11 TH JULY 2015	NORMANTON DTC
SATURDAY 11 TH JULY 2015	ABERDEEN & DISTRICT DTC
SUNDAY 12 TH JULY 2015	WINCHESTER DTC
SUNDAY 12 TH JULY 2015	DANESFORD DTC
SATURDAY 25 TH JULY 2015	BURNHAM ON SEA
SUNDAY 26 TH JULY 2015	GLANDORE DTC OF ULSTER
SUNDAY 26 TH JULY 2015	NORTH WEST KENT DTC
SATURDAY 1 ST AUGUST 2015	LUNE VALLEY DTC
SUNDAY 2 ND AUGUST 2015	HATCHFORD BROOK DTC
SATURDAY 8 TH AUGUST 2015	GOVAN & DISTRICT DTC
SATURDAY 8 TH AUGUST 2015	NEWTON HEATH DTC
SATURDAY 22 ND AUGUST 2015	DITTON DTC
SATURDAY 29 TH AUGUST 2015	CAMBRIDGESHIRE DTC
SUNDAY 30 TH AUGUST 2015	WIGTON DTC
MONDAY 31 ST AUGUST 2015	WAKEFIELD DTC
SUNDAY 6 TH SEPTEMBER 2015	EAST KILBRIDE DTC
SUNDAY 13 TH SEPTEMBER 2015	LISBURN & DISTRICT DTC
SUNDAY 13 TH SEPTEMBER 2015	BAGSD (SOUTHERN AREA)
SUNDAY 20 TH SEPTEMBER 2015	NORFOLK BROADS DTC
SUNDAY 28 TH SEPTEMBER 2015	BAGSD (BIRMINGHAM NORTH)
SUNDAY 4 TH OCTOBER 2015	BAGSD (HUDDERSFIELD)

Good Citizen Dog Scheme Bronze Award achievers – your chance to qualify for Crufts 2016 in the Good Citizen Dog Scheme Pre-Beginner Obedience Stakes!

The Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme Pre-Beginner Obedience Stakes were introduced in 2005. Their purpose is to encourage Bronze Award achievers to take part and enter in the world of Obedience competition.

The stakes test is a combination of the current GCDS exercises and the Pre-Beginner Obedience test (details overleaf). Dogs must have obtained their GCDS Bronze Award prior to the closing date of the show.

Rosettes and prize cards will be awarded for 1st-10th place in each heat. Heats are spread throughout the UK. Each stakes class or split class offers qualifying places to the two highest placed dogs. In the event *both* of the two highest placed dogs are Border Collie/Working Sheepdogs (BC/WSD) an additional qualifying place will be awarded to the highest placed ABC (Anything But a Collie). In the event of *both* of the two highest placed dogs being ABCs, an additional qualifying place will be awarded to the highest placed BC/WSD.

Dates of Finals

The Southern Semi Finals will be held at Discover Dogs in London on **Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th October 2015** and the Northern Semi Finals will be held in Stirling, Scotland on **Sunday 25th October 2015**. The **Grand Final** will be held at Crufts **2016**.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Does my dog have to be Kennel Club registered to take part? *Yes. In accordance with KC Rules and Regulations, all dogs entering a KC Licensed event must be registered either on the Breed or Activity Dog Register.*

How can my dog take part? *Dogs must be KC Registered and at least 6 months old to take part at KC Licensed Obedience show. Each dog must have obtained a minimum of it's Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme Bronze Award prior to the closing date of the show and the handler or dog must not have won a First Prize in Pre-Beginners nor gained a third place or above in any other standard obedience class.*

Does the stay exercise have to be on or off lead? *The stay exercise must be conducted off lead.*

Should the Play or Motivate Your Dog Exercise be conducted on or off the Lead? *This exercise can be conducted on or off lead at the discretion of the handler.*

Do I need to show my Bronze certificate on the day of the show? *No, although for verification purposes random spot checks may be made by the GCDS office either prior to or after the show date.*

For further information and show details please contact:-

**The Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme,
1 – 5 Clarges Street, London, W1J 8AB
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e-mail gcds@thekennelclub.org.uk
Or visit our website at www.gcds.org.uk**

Correct as of 27/02/15

CRITERIA

Eligibility

To compete in this special class a handler or dog must not have won a First Prize in Pre-Beginners nor gained a third place or above in any other standard Obedience class (Introductory excepted). Exhibitors must have obtained a minimum of their Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme Bronze Award prior to the closing date of the show.

Aim

The exercises featured in this special class will be a combination of the Bronze Award and the Pre-Beginner class. This test will serve as an introduction to basic competitive Obedience and handlers will be encouraged to motivate their dog throughout the test. Toys and/or other training aids may be used briefly between exercises, although during the exercise, these must be placed on the Judge's table. Toys should be of a suitable size and texture. Handlers will not be penalised for encouragement or extra commands except during the stay exercise. Food must not be used as an incentive and must not be brought into the ring. Judges or Stewards must not use the words "last command" except in the Stay exercise.

Qualifying for the Semi Finals

These heats will be held at Open or Championship Obedience shows in 2015. The class will be a mixed sex class and will require one judge. The judge will be appointed by the Show Society in accordance with current Kennel Club 'G' Obedience Show Regulations. Each stakes class offers qualifying places to the two highest placed dogs. In the event of the entry exceeding 60, the class will be split, and two qualifiers from each division of the heat will qualify for a semi final place.

Breed Classification

In the event of the two highest placed dogs being a BC/WSD an additional qualifying place will be awarded to the highest placed ABC. In the event of the two highest placed dogs being an ABC, an additional qualifying place will be awarded to the highest placed BC/WSD.

Category A - BC/WSD will be classed as *Border Collie or Working Sheepdog*.

Category B - ABC will be classed as *Anything But a Collie* hence all breeds excluding the Border Collie or Working Sheepdog.

In the event of a dispute the judge's discretion will be final. In all instances, both qualifying dogs must have completed the test. In the event of the entry exceeding 60, the class will be split, and two qualifiers from each division of the heat will qualify for a semi final place.

Once a dog has qualified for a semi final, further heats may be entered for competition. Although any placing in these heats will not affect the dog's eligibility for the semi final, it is most important that handlers who gain a place in a heat with a previously qualified dog inform the show secretary on the day of the show of this fact. Hence if a dog has already qualified, the dog may be placed at future shows but the qualifying place will be awarded to the next eligible dog of that category. Please refer to breed classifications as printed above.

Rosettes (1st–10th place) and qualifying certificates will be issued by the Kennel Club to all clubs running the heats. All heat qualifiers will receive a certificate and an invitation to attend one of two semi finals.

Dogs and handlers should be eligible to enter the Obedience Pre-Beginners class at the time of entering a heat. Any subsequent wins gained by the handler or dog will not alter their eligibility to compete in the final.

In 2015 the Young Kennel Club (YKC) will be offering Best YKC member rosettes at each of the GCDS Special Pre-Beginners Stakes Heats. Points gained from the YKC rosettes will go towards qualifying for a Special YKC Obedience competition. This is separate to the GCDS Stakes awards. For more information on YKC Awards please visit www.ykc.org.uk

The Test

1) Play with or motivate your dog	5 Points
2) Heel on lead	10 Points
3) Examination of the dog (Handler to show Judge)	15 points
4) Recall with finish	10 Points
5) Control at gate exercise	15 Points
6) Stay one minute, Handler in sight	15 Points
TOTAL	70 Points

1) Play with or motivate your dog (handler's choice - on or off lead) 5 Points

It is recommended that the Judge commences with this exercise and that it last approximately 30 seconds. To show how a handler can motivate their dog in preparation for Obedience work. Handlers may use a toy for this exercise. Play should be under the handler's control and if it involves articles they should be readily given up by the dog. Play should be appropriate to the dog under test but should not include play fighting. Formal exercises will not be deemed as appropriate. Any form of aggression must be penalised.

2) Heel on Lead 10 Points

It is recommended that this exercise follows Play With or Motivate Your Dog and should last no more than one minute. This is an introduction to competitive heelwork and should be straightforward, include minimal turns and not more than two halts. A large circle is permissible in either direction, at the judge's discretion. The handler should walk briskly and the dog should walk with its shoulder approximately level with and reasonably close to the handler's leg at all times while the handler is walking. The lead should be slack at all times. The test will start and finish with the dog sitting at the handler's side.

(3) Examination of the dog (handler to show judge) 15 points

The handler will show the judge how they can settle and examine their own dog. This exercise will be carried out on lead. The dog will be required to have its mouth, teeth, throat, eyes, ears and feet inspected when standing, sitting or lying down on either side or on its back.

(4) Recall with Finish 10 Points

Recall from Sit or Down position at handler's choice. Dog to be recalled by handler when stationary and facing the dog. Dog to return smartly to the handler, sit in front, go to heel – all on command of judge or steward to handler.

(5) Control at Gate Exercise 15 Points

Walk on lead through gate with the dog under control. Handler to start exercise with dog in the sit, down or stand position. Dog to wait while handler opens gate and walks through the gate. Handler to then recall dog through the gate on lead. Dog to then wait in stand, sit or down position, while handler secures the gate. The dog should not pull or be pulled through the doorway. Marks must be deducted for anticipation, tight lead or lack of control.

(6) Stay one minute, handler in sight (Group Exercise - off lead) 15Points

(Stand, Sit or Down Stay, handler's choice). Handlers may face their dogs. Individual handlers may choose the stay position for their own dog.