

### **LIFE SKILLS 3**

K9 Life Skills 3 class is designed for dogs who have already learned basic heeling skills, including slow, fast, circle right, and circle left. A good understanding of 'Heel Position' will be taught this class and will solidify as you learn to help your dog maintain this position. Your dog will refine many of the other skills that he has already learned. New skills that will be useful and necessary for later obedience work will also be taught as you continue to develop your dog's attention and focus on you. This fast-paced class will keep both the handles and trainers busy since we include in our lessons all the exercises that are involved in the American Kennel Club's (AKC) Canine Good Citizen test.

A 'Sit for Examination' will be taught to help the dog gain understanding and confidence when a stranger approaches to do the examination. This involves the trainer touching your dog's head while the dog holds a 'Sit Stay'. You will continue to practice sit and down stays, increasing both the distance and time your dog can maintain these stays. Upon successful completion of this class, your dog should be able to do a reliable sit stay for one minute, and a reliable down stay for 3 minutes. By the end of the eighth week, your dog will have the skills taught to him to be able to perform a reliable 6-foot on lead recall with a 'Sit in Front'.

As with all obedience work, practice and consistency are essential. Repetition of each exercise is required to provide the understanding for both you and your dog. The time spent in each training session will vary from dog to dog. Very young dogs may have a short attention span and a short 10-to-15 minute session would be the most productive. Other dogs may enjoy working for a 20-to-30 minute session and still be able to learn the lessons. Remember, too, that many every day activities provide excellent, short training sessions. For example, you may put your dog in a 'Sit Stay' as you fix his meals. You can teach your dog to remain in a 'Down Stay' during family meal times. You may clip the lead and training collar on when the doorbell rings so your dog will not jump up on visitors. The list is endless. Use all these opportunities constructively!

The following Tuesday after each class session ends, TCKC will offer the Canine Good Citizen (CGC) test to our class students and to the public. We have several AKC evaluators within our club that donate their time to provide this test to those seeking a CGC certificate or title for their dog. Our doors will open at 6:00 p.m. for those who want to practice any or all of the 10 stations that makes up the CGC test. Testing will start promptly at 6:30 p.m. and will continue until all dogs have been tested.