Canine Good Citizen Ready Program

How to make adult “Pit Bull” Type Dogs even more adoptable

Presented By Carrie Morris
THE CANINE GOOD CITIZEN

and how we tailor it for dogs in a shelter

• Designed by the American Kennel Club, the Canine Good Citizen is an obedience program geared towards strengthening a bond between the owner and the dog

• Consists of ten “real life skills”

• For the shelter dog, tested by AKC Evaluator but are not certified through the AKC.

• Adopters of a CGC dog are encouraged to return for training and certification after adoption
WHY TARGET THE ADULT “PIT BULL”?

Most overlooked in shelters

The group with the most to prove to adopters

Beginning through Best Friends Animal Society, the Canine Good Citizen Ready Program is geared towards boxy headed “Pit Bull Type Dogs” to view the difference in adoption rates and length of stay before and after the program.

Leaders in advocacy, like Animal Farm Foundation and NCRC, designed for Length of Stay, not advocacy.

ADOPTED! CGC Ready, Brutus
Requirements

Dogs must be eager to learn and generally friendly towards people.

Dogs with defensive aggression, aversion towards a person(s), notes of territorial aggression in the home cannot be in the program.
Paced constantly when walking back to kennel pulled extremely strong and difficult to have him walk away from the kennels. At kennel Pulled hard at the neighboring kennel—very difficult to redirect him into his kennel. Putting to ATTN—do not feel this dog is appropriate for adoption at this time—Tucker (now Thurman) CGC Certified
TULIP

CGC READY 09/24/2015
ADOPTED 10/4/2015
TRAINING PRINCIPLES

- NOT RELATIONSHIP BASED
- NOT POSITIVE ONLY
- ALL FOUR QUADRANTS OF LEARNING
- REACH EVERY DOG
- SAVE AS MANY AS POSSIBLE

What is the dog telling you?

**REWARD**
- Food
- Toys
- Petting/Praise

**PRESSURE AND RELEASE**

**CORRECTION**
- Aversive(s)
- Time Outs
- Leash Corrections
Volunteers

Quality over Quantity

Offers opportunities for growth and continued training for invested volunteers (volunteer retention/engagement)

CGC Training classes help personally marketing/protecting dogs until adoption after achieving CGC Ready title.
- Designate select volunteers to keep skills current (and help generalize that good behavior!)

- Spend at least one day a week keeping the stubborn guys up to speed.

- Utilizing Volunteer Behavior Classes for training

- Communication with the staff and volunteers to hold CGC ready and CGC trainee dogs to a high standard and make sure they are not being allowed to practice inappropriate behaviors

- Continuing marketing of CGC ready dogs
Dogs start in the program, but behaviors arise in the shelter environment that exclude them from the program.

- Sometimes shelter induced, sometimes new information
- Dog is returned with new info that precludes them from the program
- Must be removed from all CGC marketing
- "I've Got Skills" marketing an attempt to still highlight these dogs
PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER
Marketing the CGC:
You gotta start somewhere.

SOCIAL MEDIA
AND OF COURSE....

Dudley
- Loves walks
- Thinks he's a lap dog
- Chill demeanor
- Knows "sit," "down," "come" & other skills
- Prefers to be the only pet at home

CGC READY

The CGC page highlights our little nuggets that are on their way, or have already passed the tests, to be CGC Ready! All dogs are adoptable unless noted!
In the first year of the program, APA saw a 16% increase in dog adoptions over the baseline year. This includes a 12% increase in adoptions for non-PBTD’s and a 33% increase for PBTD’s.

Take 26% (928) more dogs compared to the baseline year. This includes almost 2,500 animals pulled from Austin Animal Center.
Our Second Year

Comparing the Canine Good Citizen VS. Blocky Headed Type Dogs

Adoption Rates
- 75% Intake and Adopted
- 95% Canine Good Citizen Dogs

Rate of Return
- 28% Adopted and Returned
- 4% Canine Good Citizen Dogs

Length of Stay
- 170 Days Average LOS Until Adoption
- 41 Days Canine Good Citizen Dogs

20% Higher Adoption Rate
Almost 7X Less Likely
Almost 80% Shorter
Austin Pets Alive Canine Good Citizen Program Today

- 4 CGC Certifications this year!
  - More connection with AFU
- LOS for CGC Ready down to 22 days
- Still 7x less likely to be returned
- 113 PBTD dogs “CGC Affected” from Jan. ‘15 to now
  - 101 of those have been adopted
- Different level of dogs, longer training times and more BMOD needed
- Majority of dogs are adopted while in training
Ellie Becoming CGC Ready!
ELLIE

STARTED CGC TRAINING 6/26/2016
CGC READY 7/31/2016
ADOPTED 8/27/2016
CGC Trainee Buddha

CGC READY ZORRA