

APDT Good Companion Awards

What they are and why do we use them?



The Association of Pet Dog Trainers



APDT UK
ASSOCIATION OF
PET DOG TRAINERS

- The APDT is a not-for-profit Community Interest Company established in 1995 to promote training skills that improve the welfare of dogs and the competence of dog owners.
- APDT is a founder member of the ABTC.
- The Animal Behaviour and Training Council sets and maintains standards of knowledge and practical skills needed to be an animal training instructor (among others) and represents the training and behaviour sector to the public and to governments.

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- APDT members undergo a rigorous assessment of both theoretical and practical knowledge and are committed to using kind, fair and effective training methods when teaching dogs and their owners.
- All members work in accordance with a Code of Practice which prohibits them from using aversive training methods.
- The APDT promotes training skills and techniques based on up-to-date, researched methods that are in keeping with modern learning theory.

What are the awards?



- THE APDT GOOD COMPANION AWARDS are awards that can be achieved by pet dog guardians together with their dog.
- Guardians will be assessed on their dog training skills, knowledge of dog welfare, behaviour and all-round good companionship.
- The dog will be assessed on their ability to achieve what is asked of them by you.

Rules and eligibility

- Any dog, of any age, or any breed can be entered for the GCA awards
- You can be taught by anyone who is a full member of APDT, or under their guidance.
- It is vital that the APDT CoP is always adhered to, and that teaching is Kind, Fair & Effective.
- Only full members can assess you so that you can be guaranteed that the same standards are met across the UK
- Full members will always display their membership number so that you can check their status on the APDT website.



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Lorraine Smith 01451

Why?

- Pet dog guardians:
 - Measure progress
 - Sense of achievement
 - Fun with your dog
- Canine Partners' Puppy Parents:
 - Measure progress
 - Sense of achievement
 - Fun with the dog
- Puppy Parenting is about producing a well-rounded puppy, not an assistance dog, so the awards are well-placed to aid in checking their progression.





Documents

Information Pack

- Gives you lots of information about dogs that we need you to understand.
- You will be asked questions throughout based on this information.
- Technical terms are explained, but do not need to be memorised.

CONTENTS

	04 How your dog learns
	07 How your dog communicates
	08 Play
	10 Exercise and enrichment
	12 Health information
	14 Life stages of your dog
	18 Dog Law
	20 Genetics
	30 Selected bibliography



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GOOD COMPANION AWARDS

Guidelines
for dog guardians

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Guidelines

- Explains the exercises and what we are looking for.
- Tells you each exercise, and the goal for passing
- Your PTC will take videos over a six-week period for assessment by an APDT member

Documents



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Puppy award



The Puppy award is suitable for all puppies under the age of seven months at completion. Your instructor will go through each of the exercises listed below. You may be assessed over a period of up to six weeks, either during your one-to-one sessions or during your usual classes. Your instructor will explain how they plan to do this for you.

There will be questions asked throughout the assessment on the material provided in the 'Guardian Information Pack'. This is not a formal examination, but enables your instructor to see your level of understanding.

All assessments must follow the APDT Code of Practice, which may be found [here](#).

EXERCISE	GOAL
Legal ID	Your assessor will check that your puppy is wearing the correct identification as required by law.
Response to name or touch	You will be asked to say your puppy's name, who should show a clear response to you. Hearing impaired dogs will need to respond to a signal or gentle touch.
Recall	You will recall your puppy to you from a distance of approximately five metres – your puppy may be gently held by the instructor or an assistant before being recalled.
Handling	Your puppy should be comfortable with you gently touching them all over, including eyes, ears, nose, teeth, tail area, belly, paws etc. Treats will be permitted where appropriate throughout handling exercises.
Positions - Sit, Down, Stand	You should ask your puppy to move into one of these positions from another, e.g. stand to a sit, sit to a down. The cue may be verbal or visual. You should give the cue only once and allow the puppy 4-5 seconds to respond, and an appropriate reward given when complete.
Settle	The puppy should be able to settle next you for a minimum of ten seconds. A mat may be used to help the puppy settle.
Lead Walking	Your puppy should be comfortable having its lead attached and removed. You should demonstrate the ability to encourage the puppy to walk on a loose lead for at least 3-4 of your strides.
Self-Control - door	Your puppy should demonstrate self-control going through a crate door, or a gateway/door with you. You may use a verbal/visual cue to assist.
Self-Control - food	Your puppy should demonstrate self-control when taking low-value treats/toy from your open hand. You should put a bowl containing food down, and your puppy show self control before eating.
Play	You should demonstrate appropriate play with your puppy, with or without toys. Your puppy should play with good manners.
Drop/Give	You should demonstrate how to take an item from your puppy on cue without confrontation.
Question	You will be asked a question on puppy welfare, as taken from the information pack.

Levels of award





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Award



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GOOD COMPANION AWARDS

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

PROUDLY AWARDED TO



Who have been assessed and have demonstrated the level of knowledge and experience required to gain their
APDT Puppy Good Companion Award

ASSESSOR

MAPDT NUMBER

DATE



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Lorraine Smith MAPDT 01451

More information

- <https://apdt.co.uk/code-of-practice-apdt/>
- <https://apdt.co.uk/good-companion-awards/>



caninepartners.org.uk

Questions?

