



Veronica Morris, PhD

Elaine Malkin

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Chanda Hagen  
Linden Gue

Heather Walker

Bradley W. Morris, MA, CPhil

1651 SANDPIPER DR  
ROCK HILL SC 29732  
USA  
(805) 876-4256  
info@psych.dog  
www.psychdogpartners.org

American Kennel Club  
CGC Department  
P.O. Box 900064  
Raleigh, NC 27675-9064  
(919) 816-3637  
cgc@akc.org, Mary.Burch@akc.org

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To Dr. Burch and Whomever Else It May Concern:

Psychiatric Service Dog Partners is a nonprofit organization focused on service dog education, advocacy, and support. Several of our trainers are CGC testers, and at our yearly conventions we offer the CGC, CGCA, and CGCU tests for teams in attendance, in addition to a public access test that is distinctly targeted to service dog use. These tests are all very popular, and we truly appreciate having them as guideposts in our longitudinal service dog training.

Respectfully, we are taken aback by the latest rebranding of the CGCU as a public access test (as described in the press release <https://www.akc.org/press-releases/american-kennel-club-announces-urban-public-access-test/>). We are writing to kindly request that you slightly alter your re-branding. We will explain why and suggest how.

“Public access test” is a widely recognized term of art in the service dog community. It is a test specifically intended to help signal whether the team is worthy of public access rights in no-pets places under laws such as Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act. There are multiple public access tests formulated within the community by those with years of expertise specific to service dogs—including people with disabilities and service dog users themselves. For example, our public access test can be accessed at the following link:

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/public-access>

Repurposing of the name “public access test” by a non-disability-oriented

corporation is likely to cause confusion *and* consternation. This muddies the waters and for a public that already often has misperceptions about service dogs.

Incidentally, it doesn't seem like the change was necessary since the "Urban" name was clear enough (though we may be wrong). AKC's Doug Ljungren said:

"The Urban CGC test can fill the desire of lodging, retail, and transportation businesses, and managers of public facilities for dog owners to provide evidence that a dog has been trained to behave in public settings".

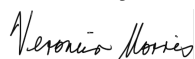
If AKC sees fit to re-brand the test for clarification and better marketing, we believe AKC could achieve its purpose by calling it a "Public Settings Test" without making it sound as if completing the test grants permission ("Access") to enter no-pets places.

We recognize there is a disclaimer at the end in fine print, yet strongly caution that such a disclaimer is not nearly as likely to get through to a large portion of consumers. The simple titular solution we propose would avoid the confusion and consternation. We genuinely fear that if the test is called a "Public Access Test", no disclaimer will be enough to dissuade consumers or business owners from wrongly assuming that completing the test grants people public access everywhere with their dogs.

We repeat our refrain that you please call the CGCU a public settings test instead of a public access test so that it is less easily confused with public access tests for service dogs. We welcome an elaboration of your perspective and a conversation about how best to proceed.

If you would like assistance avoiding faux pas related to the service dog community in the future, we cordially encourage you to contact us for input before taking actions that may directly impact our community.

Thank you,



Veronica Morris, PhD  
President, on behalf of the  
Board of Directors  
Psychiatric Service Dog Partners

**Psychiatric Service Dogs Partners' purpose is to promote the mental health of people using service dogs for psychiatric disabilities by educating, advocating, providing expertise, facilitating peer support, and promoting responsible service dog training and handling.**