

Puppy Temperament Testing

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TESTER - Must be unknown to puppies,
 and test site new to puppies

Test - Requirements	Scoring				
A. Social Attraction (Come) Tester is sitting on the floor, the puppy is place on the ground approximately 6 feet away. The tester calls to the puppy to intice the puppy to come to him/her. If the puppy wonders away, reset and try again.	(1) Came quickly - when you hold puppy puppy wrestle/bits wants to leave * (2) Came quickly - when you hold puppy puppy wrestle/kisses stays with you. ** (3) Comes - Cuddles in you lap, likes being petted (4) Comes hesitantly - Still in you lap (5) No Come				
B. Following After petting puppy, stand up and place The puppy at you feet and slowly walk away, calling the puppy to see if he will follow you.	* (1) Follows circling, biting at you feet, charges on ahead of you so you follow him. ** (2) Follow very closely, pouncing on feet, getting under feet, might even look up at you. (3) Follows calmly along side or behind you. (4) Followed slowly with encouragement (5) No following - stayed still or left				
C1. Restraint - For 60 seconds Sit on your knees, hold the puppy in front on you (with the puppy facing forward - his butt is against you knees) and gently roll him on his back. Hold him down with one hand, and be sure you can see his face.	* (1) Struggles, wrestles, fighting the entire 60 seconds ** (2) Struggles, settles, struggles w/eye contact ** (3) Struggles, settles quickly w/eye contact (4) No, or very little struggle, eye contact (5) No struggle, no eye contact				
C2. Forgiveness -for restraint Quickly release the puppy and try to pet and cuddle him. Your looking for how fast he returns to his feet and his response to you for doing something he may not have liked.	(1) Quickly jumped-up, puppy nips and growling when you try to play/pet/hold him. ** (2) Quickly jumped-up, licked and pawed at hands while being petted (3) Rolls up, cuddles/licks and likes petting but mellow (4) Rolls up/ accepts petting, but no returned affection @ (5) Avoidance, won't look at you and doesn't care that you are petting him.				

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<p>D. Elevation - 30 seconds Puppies ability to accept something he can not change. He is stuck, does he panick, relax, fight to get down.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * (1) Struggles/growls/bits - does not settle down ** (2) Stuggles/settles - looks around or looks at you ** (3) Settles very quickly - looks around or at you (4) No - struggling, limp, looks around (5) Stiff - stairs 			
<p>E. Retrieving Instinct Take a small piece of paper and krumple it up in front of the puppy (the noise gets his attention). Then with the puppy looking at the paper, toss it about 6 feet away. I will repeat this test if I feel that I didn't have the puppies attention.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * (1) Runs out, grabs the paper and keeps going ** (2) Runs out, grabs the paper and stays there ** (3) Goes out, gets the paper and comes back (4) Goes out but doesn't pick it up (5) No interest (@ only if there is no prey drive either) 			
<p>F1. Pain Sensitivity Hold the puppy, and slowly pinch the paw between two toes on the front foot You increase the pressure to the count of 10. You stop counting when the puppy shows any sign of discomfort</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * (1) 10+ Made it to 10, no reaction (2) 8-10 ** (3) 6-8 (4) 4-6 (5) 1-4 			
<p>F2. Forgiveness You have inflicted pain to this puppy Will he forgive you and go on or does he hold a grudge. Will he kiss up and forgive you as you cuddle and console him.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Struggles, growls, or bits at the hand ** (2) Quickly starts kissing and playing with you (3) Cuddles and slowly starts licking again (4) Cuddles, still @ (5) Avoidance - of petting, eye contact 			
<p>G. Sound Sensitivity Use a wooden spoon and coffee can or a small pot. You want the slightly loud tin sound, but lightly hit the pot, don't wack it as hard as you can. Puppy must be facing away from you and not see you creat the sound. Repeat the sound two to three times.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * (1) Immediately turns and goes to sound. ** (2) Startles, then goes to sound. (3) Circles and then goes in to check it out. (4) Circles, but keeps distance @ (5) Hides/avoidance 			

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<p>H1. PREY DRIVE Use a sock or small rag. Drap the sock pass the puppy and see if he chases it. I will try two to three passes to get the puppies attention.</p>	<p>* (1) Immediately notices and chases/pounces ** (2) Notices by the second pass and chases/pounces (3) Watches and finally follows sock. (4) Watches, but doesn't chase (5) No interest (@ if no retrieving instinct either)</p>				
<p>H2. PREY DRIVE ATTITUDE I like to time how long the puppy will chase the sock, and if the puppy loses sight of the sock (goes behind you) will the puppy look and try to relocate the object.</p>	<p>* (1) Chases for 60 sec./ relocated the object ** (2) Chases for 40 sec./ relocated the object (3) Chases for 20 sec. /lost object he stopped. (4) Follow object for 10 sec, no real interest in catching object (5) No interest</p>				
<p>I. COURAGE TEST Put rocks or nuts in a small coffee can. You roll the object gently towards the puppy and watch his response. I will do this at least twice to get an accurate response. Some puppies have to gather their courage.</p>	<p>* (1) Goes towards the object and stops it. ** (2) Stops, but on second pass will check object (3) Moves, or goes around object (4) Circles and avoids, but doesn't run away (5) Runs away, avoids object</p>				
<p>J. COURAGE/PROBLEM SOLVING I use a cardboard windshied screen for this. Lay the cardboard flat with one of peaks up. Place the puppy in front of the cardboard about a foot away. Pass the sock in front of the puppy and take it over the peak.</p>	<p>* (1) Chases the sock and goes straight over the obstacle ** (2) Follows the sock but may take two to three attempts to get over obstacle. (3) Puppy goes around obstacle (4) Won't stay on the cardboard, keeps getting off. (5) Puppy freezes, won't move when he hits the cardboard surface</p>				
<p>L. STRUCTURAL SUITABILITY Looking for the overall structure and balance of the puppy. The more correct the structure, the less jumping, pivoting, and straight sits I have to work on. Is the puppy a natural born athlete.</p>	<p>(1) Shoulder angulation - want the 90° (2) Rear angulation - should be compatible with shoulders (3) Feet alignment - all feet should point forward, watching for pigeon toes or cow hocks,(major no for obed.) (4) Top line - a dog with a good topline will do better fronts and finishes. (5) Length of body - to long, are a nightmare for fronts, to short - major jumping and pacing problems</p>				

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L. STRUCTURAL SUITABILITY
 Some of these are very important to people, others are used as a tie breaker between two good puppies.

- (6) Sits - looking for a natural tight tuck sit (vs rock sit)
 Does the puppy sit true and square to himself. Is it basically a nice square box when he sits. If he can't sit true to his own body, he'll never be parallel with yours.
- (7) Bit, should be a scissor bit, bad bits can (not always) lead to retrieving problems.
- (8) Appearance - Do you like the looks of the puppy.
 The puppies looks must be pleasing to my eye.
 Also want to watch for unbalanced markings.
 Like a large spot on one side of the rib cage vs. the other. The dog will always appear crooked. Stripe right down the center of the forehead makes picking on fronts to easy.

M. COMMENTS
 Note the puppy number and comment on something you didn't like, an unusual response. Extra credit note - one puppy did something none of the other puppies did. Or there response was exceptional for their breed.
 The best response for some test, will depend on the breed. A (*) denotes a high drive, intense dog - that can be outstanding, but needs a experienced handler, (**) denotes the best reponse for a working dog home. (@) A response that would eliminate a puppy for a working home, but not a pet home.

A) certain breeds - Rotties/dobes/shepherds are aloof breeds. They should be more interested in checking out their surroundings first than coming to a total stranger. I do not fault them for this because I expect it. If the working breed comes to me instead of checking out its environment - its usually a bonus point for them

B) They should follow, but be interested in checking things out on the way. I would prefer they were noisy instead of just sticking close under my feet - shows confidence in the puppy if he gets ahead and continues to look around

C) restraint you want the 3-4 response. I want acceptance, but eye contact is important. They know that I am in control and they show acceptance of this with the eye contact. A 1 or 5 rating the puppy would have to impress me in another category to overlook this one

C2) Forgiveness is very important here. I did something they didn't like and it was purely a dominance move. I like mellow and then they start kissing up to you. Shows they didn't like it, but will forgive.

D) Doesn't tell you a whole lot if you have a dedicated breeder who handles her puppies a lot. They are used to it. would bother me if one from Sue's litter - because I know how much she handles them - would not accept this

E) Retrieving - working breed should all have some retrieving instinct.

F) Pain - I like middle of the Road, although a 10 doesn't bother me in a working or herding breed. These are supposed to be tough dogs because they are hard working breeds

F2) Another place that I really want to see some type of forgiveness. I again did something they didn't like can they get over it and go on or do the sulk about it.

G) Noise - working breeds should not be sound sensitive. A really sound sensitive dog is no good for the performance ring. Would depend on how noisy the farm area would be if a sound sensitive dog would fit in.

H) Prey drive is something I like to see for a heavy performance home. For a family pet, you want middle to low. As long as I have ret. instinct, I don't need prey drive in a pet. Lower prey drive they will be better at staying close instead of wanting to chase everything in sight.

J) The rest of them are additional tests that help me decide between two close puppies. Depends on what I want them for. For courage - important for performance like. Probably important for dog in a farm atmosphere. These both can be noisy environment.