

Obedience Personality Test

Adapted from "The Intelligence of Dogs," pages 194-207, Stanley Coren, Free Press, 1994.

Date of Test: ____ / ____ / ____ Test Sequence: Puppy ____ of ____
Name of Puppy: _____ Description of Puppy: _____
Age of Puppy: ____ Weeks Sex of Puppy: M F
Litter Information: _____

Hours Since Last Meal: _____ Time of Test: Start: _____ End: _____
Total Length of Test: _____ minutes

Name of Tester: _____
Name of Assistant(s): _____
Name of Scorer(s): _____
Description of Test Location: _____

TEST NOTES

Items required for Test: Stop Watch, Ball of Paper, Piece of String Tied to a Towel, Can with Rocks Inside as a Noise Maker, Spring Release Umbrella, and Pieces of Food.

TEST 1 – SOCIAL ATTRACTION – APPROACHING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Tester kneels on the floor, sitting on heels. (This lowers silhouette making the Tester less threatening.)
2. Assistant carries puppy into room and places facing and 4 feet in front of Tester.
3. Tester should call using "Puppy, Puppy, Puppy" and lightly clap hands. (Do not use the word "come, any other command, or name of the puppy" which may invoke a learned response.)
4. As soon as the dog is on the floor, the Tester calls the puppy.

SCORING

Check One:

- Comes Immediately – Score 3
- Come Hesitantly – Score 2
- Comes Readily, But Jumps On Tester or Nips And Mouths Hand **OR**
Does Not Come At All – Score 1

Check One if Applicable:

- Tail High – Aggressive
- Tail Low – Submissive

TEST 2 – SOCIAL ATTRACTION – FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Tester stands up next to the puppy, verbally encouraging the dog with “Puppy, Puppy, Puppy” and pats leg and walks away.

SCORING

Check One:

- Follows – Score 3
- Follows Hesitantly – Score 2
- Doesn't Follow **OR** Follows and Gets Underfoot and Mouths and Nips At Testers Feet – Score 1

Check One if Applicable:

- Tail High – Aggressive
- Tail Low – Submissive

TEST 3 – SOCIAL DOMINANCE – RESTRAINT INSTRUCTIONS

1. Tester kneels on the floor and gently roll the puppy on it's back.
2. Puppies legs must be pointing up with spine against the floor.
3. **START STOP WATCH FOR 30 SECOND COUNT** when puppy is in position.
4. Exert just enough pressure to keep the puppy on it's back.
5. Look directly at the dog, but do not force eye contact.
6. Use a bland expression that is not harsh or threatening, and remain silent till end of test.
7. Hold puppy for 30 seconds.

SCORING

Check One:

- Initial Struggle, But Settles Down **OR** Gives Up – Score 3
- No Struggle, Allows Some Eye Contact – Score 2
- No Struggle, But Avoids Eye Contact **OR** Struggles Fiercely For 30 Seconds **OR** Bites or Growls At Any Point. – Score 1

Check One if Applicable:

- Continuous Struggle – Aggressive
- No Struggle – Submissive

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TEST 4 – SOCIAL DOMINANCE – FORGIVENESS

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Kneel placing puppy setting in front at a 45° angle, facing Tester.
2. Stroke puppy slowly with one hand starting at the head smoothly towards the tail.
3. Tester talks quietly to the puppy and leans face forward so puppy is close so it can attempt to lick face.

SCORING

Check One:

- Snuggles and Tries to Lick Face **OR** Squirms a Bit and Licks Hand – Score 3
- Rolls Over and Licks Hand **OR** Jumps Up and Paws Tester – Score 2
- Puppy Growls, Mouths, or Nips **OR** Leaves or Tries To Get Away – Score 1

Check One If Applicable:

- Jumping, Pawing, Mouthing or Growling – Aggressive
- Rolling or Moving Away – Submissive

TEST 5 – SOCIAL DOMINANCE – LOSS OF CONTROL

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Tester bends over puppy with puppy facing away, using hands as a cradle and lift dog off the ground.
(Keep fingers intertwined.)
2. **START STOP WATCH FOR 30 SECONDS COUNT** when puppy is in position.
3. Set puppy down after 30 second count.

SCORING

Check One:

- Relaxed, No Struggle **OR** Struggles Briefly And Settles Down – Score 3
- No Struggle, But Whimpered or Growled **OR** Runs Away When Placed Down – Score 2
- Struggled Fiercely and Whimpered **OR** Growled And Nipped – Score 1

Check One If Applicable:

- Fiercely Struggled – Aggressive
- Whimpered or Ran Away – Submissive

– CALM PUPPY DOWN BY PETTING BEFORE GOING TO NEXT TEST. –

TEST 6 & 7 – RETRIEVING – TRIAL 1

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Tester kneels with back of dog on knees.
2. Dangle ball of paper in front of dog on and tease puppy with encouragement. (Get puppy interested in the paper ball.)
3. When the puppy shows interest, Tester tosses paper ball 3 feet.
4. When puppy moves to paper ball, tester moves back 2 feet.
5. If puppy picks up paper encourage it to bring it back.
6. If puppy returns with or without the paper ball praise the puppy.
7. If not, catch the puppies attention, pickup paper ball and move away **OR** Retrieve puppy if it has run away with the paper ball.

– SCORE AND REPEAT THE TEST –

SCORING TEST 6

Check One:

- Chases and Returns With or Without Paper Ball – Score 3
- Chases, Stands Over Paper Ball, and Does Not Return **OR** Chases and Loses Interest – Score 2
- Chases Paper Ball, Picks It Up and Runs Away – Score 1

Check One If Applicable:

- Chases Paper Ball, Picks It Up And Runs Away – Aggressive
- Fails To Chase Paper Ball – Submissive

SCORING TEST 7

Check One:

- Chases and Returns With or Without Paper Ball – Score 3
- Chases, Stands Over Paper Ball, and Does Not Return **OR** Chases and Loses Interest – Score 2
- Chases Paper Ball, Picks It Up and Runs Away – Score 1
- Fails To Chase Paper Ball – Score 1

Check One If Applicable:

- Chases Paper Ball, Picks It Up And Runs Away – Aggressive
- Fails To Chase Paper Ball – Submissive

TEST 8 – TOUCH SENSITIVITY

INSTRUCTIONS

- This test requires a gradual increase in finger pressure.
 - The tester should practice by squeezing the forefinger of one hand between the thumb and the forefinger of the other; slowly increasing pressure while counting to 12, until he is squeezing as hard as he can. Do not use finger nails, only the pads of fingers. When the tester can do this consistently, begin test. Tester will be shown where to test on the dogs ear.
1. Tester kneels and holds dog.
 2. Tester grasps the dog's ear applies pressure to the count of 12.
 3. As soon as the puppy shows any sign of pain, pulling away, or trying to bite the tester immediately releases pressure.
 4. Tester immediately praises puppy and strokes the dog playfully.
 5. **COUNT IS RECORDED**

SCORING

Check One:

- Count of 5 to 8 – Score 3
- Count of 3 to 4 – Score 2
- Count of 9 to 10 – Score 2
- Count of 1 to 2 – Score 1
- Count of 11 to 12 – Score 1

Check One If Applicable:

- Count of 1 to 2 – Submissive
- Count of 3 to 4 – Submissive
- Count of 9 to 10 – Aggressive
- Count of 11 to 12 – Aggressive

TEST 9 – SOUND REACTION

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Tester places puppy so it faces away from the direction the sound is going to come from.
2. After the Tester places the puppy, it does not touch it for the remainder of the test.
3. The Assistant shakes a can 3 times very quickly and vigorously to make a loud noise and then freezes in position, not making eye contact with the puppy.

SCORING

Check One:

- Acts interested, moves toward the sound or listens and orients its head curiously in the direction of the sound, even if startled at first – Score 3
- Locates sound, but stays in place and barks – Score 2
- Ignores sound – Score 1
- Goes to sound and barks – Score 1
- Cringes, or backs off, or tries too hide – Score 1

Check One If Applicable:

- Locates sound, but stays in place and barks – Aggressive
- Goes to sound and barks – Aggressive
- Cringes, or backs off, or tries too hide – Submissive

NOTES

TEST 10 – REACTION TO NOVEL STIMULI

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Assistant stands off to side holding on to a piece of string that has been tied to a towel.
2. Assistant jerks towel toward himself and not towards the puppy, but sideways in front of it.
3. The towel should be jerked five or six times.

SCORING

Check One:

- Displays some curiosity, approaches and investigate – Score 3
- Ignores Test Object – Score 3
- Barks – Score 2
- Attacks, Growls, Bites, or Threatens – Score 1
- Shies away or hides – Score 1

Check One If Applicable:

- Ignores Test Object – Submissive
- Barks and Tail is Up – Aggressive
- Barks and Tail is Down – Submissive
- Attacks, Growls, Bites, or Threatens – Aggressive
- Cringes, or backs off, or tries too hide – Submissive

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TEST 11 – RESPONSE TO FOOD STIMULI

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Hold a small bit of some smelly food and allow the puppy to smell the food.
2. After a moment the Tester should allow the puppy to have the food.
3. Next, with the dog watching, the Tester takes another place another piece of food in a partially cupped hand and offer it to the dog.
4. If the dog nuzzles the hand it is offered and allowed to eat the food.
5. Tester shows the puppy another piece of food visibly in his fingers. Next he lowers his hand towards the puppy and gently waves the food in front of the puppy while turning in place a 360° rotation.

GIVE NO VERBAL ENCOURAGEMENT.

SCORING

Check One:

- Shows interest in food and nuzzles and/or digs at hand and follows tester in 360° turn – Score 3
- Shows interest in the food, but does not try to get it out of the hand – Score 2
- Shows no interest in the food – Score 1

Check One If Applicable:

- Growls or Barks at any part of the test – Aggressive

NOTES

TEST 12 – STABILITY

INSTRUCTIONS

1. While the dog is busy with Test 11, the assistant should position six feet away from the tester and the dog, standing motionless and very quiet holding a spring release umbrella.
2. After test 11 the tester calms down the puppy speaking softly.
3. Tester turns dog so it sees the assistant. The puppy is between the tester and the assistant.
4. The assistant watches the puppy carefully. When the dog is looking toward the assistant, the assistant hits the spring release of the umbrella in one quick motion and sets it on the floor.
5. The assistant stands quietly and does not make eye contact with the dog.

SCORING

Check One:

- Reaction, but regains its composure within a moment and then approaches to investigate the umbrella. – Score 3
- Stands and barks but does not approach the umbrella – Score 2
- Tries to run or hide, but can be verbally encouraged to approach the umbrella – Score 2
- Does not react at all – Score 1
- Aggressively barks, growls, and/or feints at the umbrella – Score 1
- Tries to run, hide, or escape and cannot be verbally encouraged to approach the umbrella – Score 2

Check One If Applicable:

- Stands and barks but does not approach the umbrella – Aggressive
- Tries to run or hide but, can be verbally encouraged to approach the umbrella – Submissive
- Aggressively barks, growls, and/or feints at the umbrella – Aggressive
- Tries to run, hide, or escape and cannot be verbally encouraged to approach the umbrella – Submissive

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TEST NOTES
