



Therapy Team Screening - Dog

Date: _____ Location: _____
Handler Name: _____
Dog Name: _____ Male/Female? (circle one)
Breed: _____ Age: _____
Does the pet have any health issues? _____

Activity #1: Obedience - Dog is asked to *sit, down, stay* and *come*. *Sit* and *down* commands are performed first. For the *stay* and *come* commands, a 10-foot lead is attached to the dog. The handler is asked to put the dog in a selected position and ask the dog to *stay*. The handler walks away from the dog with his/her back to the dog. The handler turns and faces the dog for 5-10 seconds, and when prompted by the evaluator returns to the dog. For the *come* command, the same exercise is repeated. However, the evaluator pets the dog as the handler walks away from the dog. The handler faces the dog, and when prompted asks the dog to *come*.

Ideal response: The dog responds correctly on the first command to all four commands.

Comments: _____ Satisfactory _____ Needs work (specify activities)

Activity #2: "Leave it" command – The evaluator places a small toy approximately 10 feet from the team. The team is asked to walk by the toy, with the dog on the same side as the toy, and within 1 foot of the toy. The dog cannot touch the toy.

Ideal response: The dog responds to the handler’s command and ignores or shows only casual interest in the toy. The dog does not pick up the toy.

Comments: _____ Satisfactory _____ Needs work (specify activities)

Activity #3: Out for a Walk – The team is asked to walk an L-shaped course. Walk 15 feet, turn right and walk 20 feet – make a 180-degree turn and return to starting point – when prompted, team stops at one point in the course.

Ideal response: Dog walks on a loose leash (not taut, with “slack” in the lead), following handler and paying attention primarily to handler; dog is not unusually distracted by the environment.

Comments: _____ Satisfactory _____ Needs work (specify activities)

Activity #4: Touching All Parts – Evaluator touches all parts of pet, brushes, and inspects pet for cleanliness. The evaluator feels the coat, looks at eyes, and nails; brushes the dog lightly in a natural manner; examines the ears and gently picks up one front paw and one rear paw.

Ideal response: Pet appears healthy, alert, clean and well-groomed; pet accepts petting and is not overly excited or does not shy away from evaluator; pet does not mouth brush or evaluator. Handler pays attention to pet and encourages pet to interact with evaluator.

Comments: _____ Satisfactory _____ Needs work (specify activities)

Activity #5: Rough/Clumsy Petting – The evaluator kneels or sits by the dog and uses clumsy movements while petting. The evaluator then

- Speaks to the dog in an excited, high-pitched voice
- Growls/barks at the dog
- Hugs the dog

Ideal response: Pet accepts petting and unusual sounds in a pleasant manner. The dog acknowledges the bark/growl and does not snap or act aggressively toward the evaluator. The dog accepts the hug and does not become aggressive, mouthy or fearful.

Comments: _____ Satisfactory _____ Needs work (specify activities)

Activity #6: Crowded Petting - Pet is surrounded by three eager people, including one person on a walker. The three assistants approach one at a time until all three are gathered close around the dog. One assistant is standing, one sitting and one kneeling. All three attempt to talk to the dog and pet him/her at the same time.

Ideal response: The dog accepts petting by all three petters. The dog remains relatively calm, and does not shy away from the petters, including the person on a walker.

Comments: _____ Satisfactory _____ Needs work (specify activities)

Activity #7: Reaction to Another Dog – The “other” dog team enters the room and waits until the evaluator prompts them to approach the team. The team is directed to the starting point, about 30 feet away from and facing the other dog team. The test team is asked to walk forward, approaching the other dog team, and stop when they are even with the other team. They are to shake hands and then proceed to the opposite end of the testing area.

Ideal response: The test dog expresses only casual interest in the other dog, and continues to walk with the handler. The test dog does not move in front of or behind the handler to interact with the other dog. The test dog does not growl, bark, raise its hackles, or attempt to jump on the dog or its handler.

Comments: _____ Satisfactory _____ Needs work (specify activities)

Activity #8: Taking a Treat – The evaluator asks the handler how to give the dog a treat. The evaluator offers a treat to the dog.

Ideal response: The handler coaches the dog and informs the evaluator as to how to give the treat. The dog takes the treat gently, does not grab or aggressively attempt to obtain the treat.

Comments: _____ Satisfactory _____ Needs work (specify activities)

Handler Assessment

Did the handler

- Maintain control of pet?
- Support the pet, physically and verbally?
- Work with pet as a team?

Comments: _____ Satisfactory _____ Needs work (specify activities)

OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS:

If pets show any of the following behaviors during the screening experience, the team will be designated as NOT APPROPRIATE for therapy work:

- Growls, snaps, bites, attacks or attempts to attack a person or another animal either during the screening or while at the screening facility
- Shows aggression or escalating fear
- Continually vocalizes as part of aggressive behavior

****If pets demonstrate signs of excessive stress, the evaluator may stop the screening. If the handler would like to stop the screening at any time for any reason, they are to alert the evaluator or one of the assistants. **The health and well-being of the animal is always a priority in evaluation and training activities.***

If pets demonstrate any of the following behaviors, they may be designated as NOT READY for participation in animal-assisted interventions:

- Excessive barking as part of stress or fear
- Excessive licking
- Excessive shyness and/or fear
- Mouthing the handler, evaluator or assistants
- Jumps up on people or equipment

In addition to the areas above marked “needs work”, all teams will benefit from working on the following:

- Obedience training
- Exposure to other animals
- Desensitization to unusual sights/sounds
- Desensitization to wheels/wheelchairs/canes/walkers
- Control of pet by handler
- Support of pet by handler.

Other comments/suggestions:

Screening results were discussed with me, and I understand the next steps to proceed as a volunteer with Hand in Paw and the Delta Society.

Signature (handler): _____ Date: _____

Signature (evaluator): _____ Date: _____