**PUPPY APTITUDE TEST**

puppy (color, sex) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ litter \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| **TEST** | **PURPOSE** | **SCORE** | **1** |
| **SOCIAL ATTRACTION:**Place puppy in test area. From a fewfeet away the tester coaxes the pupto her/him by clapping hands gentlyand kneeling down. Tester must coax ina direction away from the point where itentered the testing area. | Degree of socialattraction, confidenceor dependence. | -Came readily, tail up, jumped, bit at hands.-Came readily, tail up, pawed, licked at hands.-Came readily, tail up.-Came readily, tail down-Came hesitantly, tail down.-Didn’t come at all. | 1 23456 |
| **FOLLOWING:**Stand up and walk away from thepup in a normal manner. Make surethe pup sees you walk away. | Degree of followingattraction. Notfollowing indicatesindependence. | -Followed readily, tail up, got underfootbit at feet.-Followed readily, tail up, got underfoot.-Followed readily, tail up-Followed readily, tail down.-Followed hesitantly, tail down.-No follow or went away. | 1 23456 |
| **RESTRAINT:**Crouch down and gently roll the pupon his back and hold it with onehand for a full 30 seconds. | Degree of dominant orsubmissive tendency.How it accepts stresswhen socially/physically dominated. | -Struggled fiercely, flailed, bit.-Struggled fiercely, flailed.-Settled, struggled, settled with someeye contact.-Struggled then settled.-No struggle.-No struggle, straining to avoid eye contact. | 123 456 |
| **SOCIAL DOMINANCE:**Let pup standup and gently strokehim from the head to back whileyou crouch beside him.Continue stroking until arecognizable behavior is established. | Degree of acceptanceof social dominance.Pup may try todominate by jumpingand nipping or isindependent and walksaway. | -Jumped, pawed, bit, growled.-Jumped, pawded.-Cuddles up to testor and tries to lickface.-Squirmed, licked at hands.-Rolled over, licked at hands.-Went away and stayed away. | 123 456 |
| **ELEVATION DOMINANCE:**Bend over and cradle the pup underits belly, fingers interlaced, palmsup and elevate it just off the ground.Hold it there for 30 seconds. | Degree of acceptingdominance while inposition of no control. | -Struggled fiercely, bit, growled.-Struggled fiercely.-No struggle, relaxed-Struggled, settled, licked-No struggle, licked at hands.-No struggle, froze. | 123456 |

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| **TEST** | **PURPOSE** | **SCORE** | **1** |
| **RETRIEVING:**Crouch beside pup and attracthis attention with crumpled uppaper ball. When the pup showsinterest and is watching, toss theobject 4-6 feet in front of pup. | Degree of willingnessto work with a human.High correlationbetween ability toretrieve and successfulguide dogs, obediencedogs, field trial dogs. | -Chases object, picks up object andruns away.-Chases object, stands over object,does not return.-Chases object and returns with objectto testor.-Chases object and returns withoutobject to testor.-Starts to chase object, loses interest.-Does not chase object. | 123456 |
| **TOUCH SENSITIVITY:**Take puppy’s webbing of onefront foot and press between \*fingerand thumb lightly then more firmlytill you get a response, while youcount slowly to 10. Stop as soon aspuppy pulls away, or showsdiscomfort. *\*Do NOT use fingernail.* | Degree of sensitivity totouch. | 8-10 counts before response.6-7 counts before response.5-6 counts before response.2-4 counts before response.1-2 counts before response. | 12345 |
| **SOUND SENSITIVITY:**Place pup in the center of area,testor or assistant makes a sharpnoise a few feet from the puppy.A large metal spoon strucksharply on a metal pan twiceworks well. | Degree of sensitivity tosound. (Also can be arudimentary test fordeafness.) | -Listens, locates sound, walks towardit barking.-Listens, locates sound, barks.-Listens, locates sound, showscuriosity and walks toward sound.-Listens, locates the sound.-Cringes, backs off, hides.-Ignores sound, shows no curiosity. | 123456 |
| **SIGHT SENSITIVITY:**Place pup in center of room. Tiea string around a large towel andjerk it across the floor a few feetaway from puppy. | Degree of intelligentresponse to strangeobject. | -Looks, attacks and bites.-Looks, barks and tail up.-Looks curiously, attempts toinvestigate.-Looks, barks, tail-tuck.-Runs away, hides. | 12345 |
| **STRUCTURE:**The puppy is gently set in anatural stance and evaluated forstructure in the followingcategories:Straight frontStraight rearShoulder laybackFront angulationCroup angulationRear angulation *(see diagram below)* | Degree of structuralsoundness. Goodstructure is necessary. | -The puppy is correct in structure.-The puppy has a slight fault ordeviation.-The puppy has an extreme fault ordeviation. | goodfairpoor |

***Interpreting the Scores***

***Mostly 1′s*** A puppy that consistently scores a 1 in the temperament section of the test is an extremely dominant, aggressive puppy who can easily be provoked to bite. His dominant nature will attempt to resist human leadership, thus requiring only the most experienced of handlers. This puppy is a poor choice for most individuals and will do best in a working situation as a guard or police dog.

* ***Mostly 2′s*** This pup is dominant and self-assured. He can be provoked to bite; however he readily accepts human leadership that is firm, consistent and knowledgeable. This is not a dog for a tentative, indecisive individual. In the right hands, he has the potential to become a fine working or show dog and could fit into an adult household, provided the owners know what they are doing.
* ***Mostly 3′s*** This pup is outgoing and friendly and will adjust well in situations in which he receives regular training and exercise. He has a flexible temperament that adapts well to different types of environment, provided he is handled correctly. May be too much dog for a family with small children or an elderly couple who are sedentary.
* ***Mostly 4′s*** A pup that scores a majority of 4′s is an easily controlled, adaptable puppy whose submissive nature will make him continually look to his master for leadership. This pup is easy to train, reliable with kids, and, though he lacks self-confidence, makes a high-quality familly pet. He is usually less outgoing than a pup scoring in the 3′s, but his demeanor is gentle and affectionate.
* ***Mostly 5′s*** This is a pup who is extremely submissive and lacking in self-confidence. He bonds very closely with his owner and requires regular companionship and encouragement to bring him out of himself. If handled incorrectly, this pup will grow up very shy and fearful. For this reason, he will do best in a predictable, structured lifestyle with owners who are patient and not overly demanding, such as an elderly couple.
* ***Mostly 6′s*** A puppy that scores 6 consistently is independent and uninterested in people. He will mature into a dog who is not demonstrably affectionate and who has a low need for human companionship. In general, it is rare to see properly socialized pups test this way; however there are several breeds that have been bred for specific tasks (such as basenjis, hounds, and some northern breeds) which can exhibit this level of independence. To perform as intended, these dogs require a singularity of purpose that is not compromised by strong attachments to their owner.

The remainder of the puppy test is an evaluation of obedience aptitude and working ability and provides a general picture of a pup’s intelligence, spirit, and willingness to work with a human being. For most owners, a good companion dog will score in the 3 to 4 range in this section of the test. Puppies scoring a combination of 1′s and 2′s require experienced handlers who will be able to draw the best aspects of their potential from them.