



HANDLER'S NAME:

DOG'S NAME:

BREED/CHARACTERISTICS:

DOG'S SEX:

NEW TESTER/RETESTER

DOWN DOG:

Handler and Test Dog must successfully pass all Canine Therapy Corps' (CTCorps') Therapy Dog Assessment exercises* in order to pass. Retesting candidates may reattempt up to two obedience-focused exercises and elements, as indicated in **blue**. Temperament-focused exercises and elements are in **orange**.

Test Dog must be on a flat, buckle collar during the Assessment and a 4-foot or 6-foot, fixed-length leash during both the Practice and Test Session. No training aids (e.g., collars, harnesses, food, toys, clicker, etc.) of any sort may be used or present during the Assessment, though these aids are permitted during the Practice Session.

Handler is expected to exhibit verbal control over Test Dog. This means Test Dog responds to Handler's verbal instructions - come, sit, down, stay, heel, etc. - within 4 cues, which may consist of a verbal cue and, if given simultaneously, a simple hand signal (e.g., hand to heart for "come"). Verbal cues and hand signals that are married (i.e., given together) count as one cue; if separated, each cue counts separately.

Handler must be standing and upright when cueing Test Dog. CTCorps heavily promotes the use of praise and encouragement in exercises where verbal coaching is permitted and expects Handlers to continuously advocate for Test Dog's well-being and enjoyment.

Techniques and tools beyond verbal and hand signal cues are not allowed to induce behavior. These include, but are not limited to leash and/or collar pressure; training aids; physical touch or modeling; sounds or vocalizations other than the verbal cue (e.g., finger snapping, clapping, whistling, clicking, kissing, etc.); yelling; scolding; intimidation; foot stomping; body blocking; crowding; pretending to reach for a food lure, etc.

Canine Therapy Corps reserves the right to dismiss any Handler or Test Dog from a Therapy Dog Assessment for any reason. A Test Dog may be dismissed if, at any time while at the Test Site or in the Test Site vicinity, Test Dog demonstrates behavior unbecoming a therapy dog. Behavior unbecoming a therapy dog includes, but is not limited to, mouthing of any kind (the leash, a person, etc.), muzzle punching, lip lifting/tooth displays, barking or vocalizing, and reactivity or aggression. If two dogs are involved in an altercation, and both react, both dogs may be dismissed. At its sole discretion, and depending on the behavior issue, Canine Therapy Corps may allow a Test Dog to retest at a future Session. Dismissed Test Dogs will require Canine Therapy Corps' approval should they wish to retest, and Handler may be required to demonstrate that the behavior that resulted in prior dismissal has been rectified.

*The Handler of a Test Dog deemed not ready by a narrow margin of one obedience-focused exercise or less in three separate attempts may appeal to Canine Therapy Corps for exemption from the pass/fail standard.

In each exercise described below, you are the Handler, your dog is the Test Dog, Canine Therapy Corps' volunteers assisting at the Practice or Test Session are the Assistants, and the individual who ultimately makes the decision regarding each Test Dog's performance is the Evaluator.

Test Dog and Handler's overall performance is being evaluated during their entire time at the Test Site. Test Dog's and Handler's performance on each Exercise is being evaluated from Evaluator's commencement of the Exercise through Evaluator's "exercise finished" statement.

1. DOWN STAY WITH DISTRACTIONS (Two Testing Dogs)

Purpose. Demonstrates that Test Dog will maintain a down for an extended period of time, even when distractions are present. In a therapeutic setting, this is particularly important when the **CANINE THERAPY CORPS** volunteer is working with the participant, not the dog.

Description of Exercise. This is a dual exercise between two Test Dogs (Down Dog and Heeling Dog); it occurs simultaneously to Exercise #3 "Walk on Loose Lead." Evaluator will assign a position for the "Down Stay With Distractions," which will be within five feet of the location where Heeling Dog will make its about-turn during the "Walk on Loose Lead" Exercise. Prior to the Heeling Dog team commencing the "Walk on a Loose Lead" Exercise, Evaluator will instruct the Down Dog Handler to proceed to the assigned location and put his or her Down Dog into a down position. Evaluator will then instruct the Down Dog Handler to leave the Down Dog. The Down Dog Handler may cue the Down Dog to stay and will turn away from the Down Dog, proceed approximately 20', and turn back around to face the Down Dog. At this time, the Heeling Dog team will proceed with its "Walk on Loose Lead" Exercise. The Down Dog Handler may reinforce his or her initial cue with obedience hand signals, but must refrain from verbal coaching. Upon completion of the "Walk on a Loose Lead" Exercise, Evaluator will instruct the Down Dog Handler to return to his or her Down Dog. The Down Dog Handler should return to his or her dog without speaking and assume a position to the right or left side of the Down Dog.

PASS

DID NOT PASS

Redo

Redo

Test Dog assumed the down position as directed by its Handler.

Redo

Redo

Test Dog maintained the down position for the duration of the exercise.

Redo

Redo

Test Dog did not wander or break to its Handler, the Heeling Dog team, or any other person or dog.

Redo

Redo

Evaluator Notes:

D:



THERAPY DOG ASSESSMENT

As of 2.15.2023
ASSESSMENT DATE

HANDLER'S NAME:

DOG'S NAME:

BREED/CHARACTERISTICS:

DOG'S SEX:

2. TOLERANCE TO HANDLING BY A STRANGER

Purpose. Demonstrates that Test Dog is comfortable and tolerates being groomed, examined, and somewhat inappropriately handled and will permit a stranger, such as a CANINE THERAPY CORPS client, another volunteer, or someone other than Handler, to do so.

Description of Exercise. Evaluator will brush Test Dog in a forward and backward direction, using a soft brush provided by CANINE THERAPY CORPS (not Handler). Evaluator will examine Test Dog's ears, pick up each front foot, and touch Test Dog's tail. Evaluator will rough Test Dog's coat, give staring eye contact to Test Dog, and restrain Test Dog's movement in a brief hug. It is not necessary for Test Dog to maintain a specific position. *Evaluator may pick-up small dogs.

Test Dog showed no sign of shyness, discomfort, or resentment.

Test Dog accepted handling by Evaluator.

Evaluator Notes:

3. ACCEPTING A STRANGER

Purpose. Demonstrates that Test Dog will allow a CANINE THERAPY CORPS client to approach and speak to Handler in a natural, everyday situation.

Description of Exercise. Upon Evaluator's request, Handler will instruct Test Dog to sit or down (Handler's choice). Evaluator then will approach Test Dog and Handler from 6' to 8' from the front, shake Handler's hand, exchanging pleasantries and giving Test Dog approximately three seconds of eye contact. Evaluator will then proceed 6' to 8' to the side of Test Dog.

Test Dog assumed sit or down position as directed by Handler.

Test Dog maintained sit or down position throughout the exercise.

Test Dog showed no sign of shyness, discomfort, or resentment.

Evaluator Notes:

S/D:

4. WALK ON LOOSE LEAD (Two Testing Dogs)

Purpose. Demonstrates that Handler exhibits verbal control of Test Dog and that a CANINE THERAPY CORPS client, who may be using crutches or a walker, will be able to walk Test Dog without Test Dog pulling on the leash.

Description of Exercise. On Evaluator's cue, Handler will walk Test Dog on-leash, next to him or her, along a pre-plotted course (usually marked with traffic cones). Handler will change speeds, make turns, and halt, as directed by Evaluator. This exercise will require multiple changes in pace, one right turn, one left turn, one about-turn, and two halts (with sit), as well as passing within five feet of another dog (Down Dog).

Test Dog remained at Handler's chosen side (left or right permitted) throughout the exercise.

Test Dog sat at Handler's side when Handler halted (with or without a verbal prompt).

Test Dog was attentive and responsive to Handler's movements, voice, and changes in direction and pace.

Leash was loose, not taut.

Test Dog did not approach or attempt to approach Down Dog.

Evaluator Notes:

S1:

S2:



HANDLER'S NAME:

DOG'S NAME:

BREED/CHARACTERISTICS:

DOG'S SEX:

5. SIT ON CUE; DOWN ON CUE

☐

Purpose. Demonstrates that Test Dog will respond to Handler's basic obedience cues. This exercise demonstrates that Test Dog can comply with instructions from a **CANINE THERAPY CORPS** client.

Description of Exercise. At Evaluator's request, Handler will instruct Test Dog to sit. After Test Dog is in a sitting position, again at Evaluator's request, Handler will instruct Test Dog to down.

PASS

DID NOT PASS

Redo

Redo

Test Dog assumed sit position as directed by Handler.

Redo

Redo

Test Dog remained in sit position until down cue was given or Test Dog was released.

Redo

Redo

Test Dog assumed down position as directed by Handler.

Redo

Redo

Test Dog remained in down position until released.

Redo

Redo

Evaluator Notes:

S:
D:

6. SIT-STAY FOR EXAM

☐

Purpose. Demonstrates Test Dog will allow a **CANINE THERAPY CORPS** client, health care worker, or another **CANINE THERAPY CORPS** volunteer to approach and pet it.

Description of Exercise. Upon Evaluator's request, Handler will instruct Test Dog to sit. While continuing to hold the leash, Handler will proceed to a distance of not more than 3' as directed by Evaluator. Evaluator will approach Test Dog from 6' to 8', pet Test Dog on the head and body, and then proceed 6' to 8' to Test Dog's side.

PASS

DID NOT PASS

Redo

Redo

Test Dog assumed sit position as directed by Handler.

Redo

Redo

Test Dog maintained sit position throughout the exercise.

Redo

Redo

Test Dog showed no sign of shyness, discomfort, or resentment.

Evaluator Notes:

S:

7. SHORT STAY IN POSITION/RECALL SEQUENCE

☐

Purpose. Demonstrates that Test Dog will assume and remain in position cued by Handler, and that, when cued to come, Test Dog will come directly to Handler. These are cues frequently used by **CANINE THERAPY CORPS** clients in session.

Description of Exercise. At Evaluator's request, Handler will instruct Test Dog to sit or down (Handler's choice). After Test Dog has assumed the sit or down position, Evaluator will then direct Handler to leave Test Dog. At this time, Handler may instruct Test Dog to stay. Handler will proceed, with his or her back to Test Dog, approximately 20' and turn back around to face Test Dog. Upon Evaluator's direction, Handler will recall Test Dog.

PASS

DID NOT PASS

Redo

Redo

Test Dog assumed sit or down position as directed by Handler.

Redo

Redo

Test Dog remained in position and in place.

Redo

Redo

Upon recall cue, Test Dog came directly to Handler's front or side (within arm's length).

Evaluator Notes:

S/D:
R:



HANDLER'S NAME:

DOG'S NAME:

BREED/CHARACTERISTICS:

DOG'S SEX:

8. REACTION TO A STRANGE DOG (MEET AND GREET)

☐

Purpose. Demonstrates Test Dog can behave politely around other dogs at CANINE THERAPY CORPS programs.

Description of Exercise. An Assistant and Meet and Greet Dog, which is on-leash and in a sit, are positioned approximately 20' from Handler and Test Dog. At Evaluator's request, Handler and Test Dog approach the Assistant and Meet and Greet Dog, stopping within a social distance for shaking hands (in front of Assistant, at approximately one and a half arm's lengths). Handler will put Test Dog in a sit, shake hands, and exchange pleasantries with Assistant. At Evaluator's request, Handler will resume walking in a path that requires Test Dog to pass directly next to Meet and Greet Dog at a distance of no more than five feet.

PASS

DID NOT PASS

Redo

Redo

Leash was loose, not taut, both approaching and passing Meet and Greet Dog.

Redo

Redo

Test Dog assumed sit position as directed by Handler.

Redo

Redo

Test Dog maintained sit position while Handler interacted with Assistant.

Redo

Redo

Test Dog showed no more than casual interest in and did not attempt to approach Meet and Greet Dog and Assistant.

Redo

Redo

Evaluator Notes:

S:

9. WALK THROUGH A CROWD

☐

Purpose. Demonstrates Test Dog can move about politely and comfortably in simulated hospital traffic and equipment.

Description of Exercise. Assistants will assemble hospital equipment, such as a walker, wheelchair, and crutches, and congregate and move about, using the equipment, talking to each other, and greeting Test Dog by name in an animated, but friendly, manner. Test Dog and Handler will enter the crowd from a distance of 6' or more, walk around, pass close to, and interact with each Assistant, at least one of whom will pet Test Dog with a closed fist, and another of whom will lightly tug on its tail. Handler and Test Dog will proceed through the crowd and may be asked to pass through the crowd a second time.

PASS

DID NOT PASS

Redo

Redo

Test Dog's demeanor was appropriate, not over-exuberant.

Redo

Redo

Test Dog did not strain the leash and moved through the crowd at Handler's direction.

Redo

Redo

Test Dog did not jump on, paw at, or bark at medical equipment or Assistants.

Redo

Redo

Test Dog was comfortable with the medical equipment.

Test Dog showed no sign of shyness, discomfort, or resentment.

Evaluator Notes:



HANDLER'S NAME:

DOG'S NAME:

BREED/CHARACTERISTICS:

DOG'S SEX:

10. EXHIBITING PATIENCE (WITH TOY DISTRACTION) ☐

Purpose. Demonstrates that Test Dog is able and willing to wait patiently for direction under distracting circumstances. Many CANINE THERAPY CORPS clients need additional time to sequence tasks or concentrate on movements or speech. Test Dog must be able to tolerate the wait and show steady expectancy.

Description of Exercise. Handler and Test Dog approach two Assistants, one standing and one sitting in a wheelchair. The seated Assistant will hold a squeaky toy in his or her hand, in his or her lap, close to his or her body and visible to Test Dog. Assistant will squeak the toy twice and then hand the toy to Handler, who will not squeak the toy. Handler will then hand the toy to the standing Assistant, who will hold the toy in his or her hand, close to his or her body, between his or her waist and chest for a few seconds in front of the Test Dog, squeaking the toy twice.

PASS

DID NOT PASS

Redo

Redo

Test Dog did not attempt to grab the toy or paw at Assistants.

Redo

Redo

Test Dog did not jump.

Redo

Redo

Test Dog did not bark.

Evaluator Notes:

11. GENTLY TAKING A TREAT FROM THE HAND ☐

Purpose. Demonstrates Test Dog is able to accept a treat from a client in a friendly, gentle, patient, and non-threatening manner.

Description of Exercise. Handler will approach two Assistants, one sitting and one standing. Handler and Test Dog will approach one Assistant, who will lower his or her closed hand with a treat in it until it is within the Test Dog's reach. Assistant will not deliver the treat right away. Assistant will slowly open his or her hand, offering the treat to Test Dog. After Handler and Test Dog have finished with the first Assistant, they will repeat the process with the second Assistant. Evaluator will deliver a treat directly using pinched fingers.

PASS

DID NOT PASS

Redo

Redo

Test Dog exhibited reasonable patience waiting for the treat (for the closed hands, the use of lips or tongue are okay, whereas teeth or paws are not; for pinched fingers, teeth can contact skin, but no discomfort may result).

Redo

Redo

Test Dog did not jump.

Redo

Redo

Test Dog took the treats gently.

Redo

Redo

Test Dog did not bark.

Evaluator Notes:

HANDLER'S NAME:

DOG'S NAME:

BREED/CHARACTERISTICS:

DOG'S SEX:

12. LONG GROUP SIT STAY (Group Exercise)

☐

Purpose. Demonstrates that Test Dog will maintain a sit for a long period of time, even when distractions are present. In a therapeutic setting, this is important when the CANINE THERAPY CORPS volunteer is working with the client, not the dog.

Description of Exercise. This is a group exercise including multiple, if not all, Test Dogs. Evaluator will assemble the teams in a line with Test Dogs at Handlers' sides and provide each handler with a 10' leash. Handlers should attach the 10' leash prior to removing the regular leash. When instructed by Evaluator, all Handlers will, at the same time and within 10 seconds of Evaluator's request, put their dogs in a sit. When instructed by Evaluator, all Handlers will proceed, with their backs to Test Dogs, to the end of the 10' leash and turn back around to face Test Dogs. Handlers may reinforce Test Dogs' positions with simple hand signals, but, to prevent distraction to other Test Dogs, Handlers must refrain from verbal coaching and exaggerated body language. If a Test Dog stands and starts to wander, goes to its Handler, or moves to interfere with another Test Dog, that Test Dog's Handler will retrieve his or her Test Dog and keep it in front of him or her, away from other Test Dogs, for the duration of the exercise. After 60 seconds have passed on Evaluator's timer, Evaluator will quietly instruct Handlers to return to their respective Test Dogs. Handlers will walk back to their Test Dogs without speaking and assume a position to the right or left of his or her Test Dog.

PASS

DID
NOT
PASS

Redo

Redo

Test Dog assumed the sit position, as directed by Handler, within 10 seconds of Evaluator's instruction.

Redo

Redo

Test Dog did not wander or break to its Handler, another Test Dog, or any other person.

Redo

Redo

Test dog maintained sit position for the entire duration of the exercise.

Redo

Redo

Evaluator Notes:

13. REACTION TO DISTRACTIONS (Group Exercise)

☐

Purpose. Demonstrates Test Dog is confident when faced with distracting conditions and noises that might occur in a program setting.

Description of Exercise. As Handler and Test Dog stand and/or are moving around the room, an Assistant positioned at least 10' away from Handler and Test Dog, will drop a metal pan, crutch, can, or other loud wood or metallic object.

PASS

DID
NOT
PASS

Redo

Redo

Test Dog reacted appropriately to the distraction (whether interested, curious, or startled).

Redo

Redo

Test Dog did not panic, try to run away, show aggressiveness, or bark at the distraction.

Evaluator Notes:

14. DOG LEFT ALONE (Group Exercise)

Purpose. Demonstrates that Test Dog can appropriately cope with Handler's absence for two minutes, for example, in the event of an emergency.

Description of Exercise. When instructed by Evaluator, Handlers will leave Test Dogs with Assistants who will hold Test Dogs' leashes, but will not otherwise interact with them. When requested, all Handlers will leave the room together and remain out of Test Dogs' sight and hearing. At Evaluator's request, Handlers will re-emerge and return to Test Dogs.

PASS

DID
NOT
PASS

Test Dog did not tug at its leash, exhibit extreme agitation, or howl or bark excessively during Handler's absence.

Test dog was relatively calm during separation (did not register angst beyond mild agitation or nervousness).

Evaluator Notes:



THERAPY DOG ASSESSMENT

As of 2.15.2023

ASSESSMENT DATE

HANDLER'S NAME: _____

DOG'S NAME: _____

BREED/CHARACTERISTICS: _____

DOG'S SEX: _____

Other Evaluator Notes or Comments:

☐ PASS

☐ NOT READY

☐ DISMISSED

Evaluator's Name: _____

Evaluator's Signature: _____

Date: _____