Puppy Aptitude Test

The New Concise Chart and Scoresheet

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Test and Purpose	Score	Comments
Social Attraction **Purpose:** Degree of attraction to people. **Method:** Place pup in testing area 4 feet from tester, who coaxes puppy to her/him.	Comes readily, tail up, jumps, bites at hands ..... 1 Comes readily, tail up, paws, licks at hands ..... 2 Comes readily, tail up ..... (3) Comes readily, tail down ..... 4 Comes hesitantly, tail down ..... 5 Does not come at all 6	
Following **Purpose:** Degree of willingness to follow human leadership. **Method:** Stand up and walk away from puppy, encouraging verbally.	Follows readily, tail up, gets underfoot, bites at feet ..... 1 Follows readily, tail up, gets underfoot ..... 2 Follows readily, tail up ..... 3 Follows readily, tail down ..... 4 Follows hesitantly, tail down ..... 5 No follow ~~or went away~~ ..... (6)	
Restraint **Purpose:** Degree of dominance or submission. Response to social/physical dominance. **Method:** Gently roll the pup on his back and hold it for 30 seconds.	Struggles fiercely, flails, bites ..... 1 Struggles fiercely, flails ..... 2 Settles, ~~struggles~~, settles with eye contact .... Strug.g/RS ... (3) Slight struggle, then settles ..... 4 No struggle, tail tucked ..... 5 No struggle, strains to avoid eye contact 6	
Social Dominance **Purpose:** Degree of acceptance of human social dominance. How "forgiving" the pup is. **Method:** Pup sits facing tester at a 45° angle. Tester strokes pup and puts his/her face close to pup.	Jumps, paws, bites, growls ..... 1 Jumps, paws, licks ..... 2 Cuddles up to tester, tries to lick face ..... 3 Sits quietly, accepts petting, nudges/licks hands ..... 4 Rolls over, no eye contact ..... 5 Goes away and stays away ..... (6)	
Elevation Dominance **Purpose:** Degree of accepting dominance while in position of no control. **Method:** Cradle the pup under its belly, fingers interlaced, and elevate just off ground for 30 seconds.	Struggles fiercely, bites ..... 1 Struggles ..... 2 No struggle, relaxed, tail wags ..... 3 No struggle, relaxed ..... (4) No struggle ..... 5 No struggle, froze, tail/rear legs tense 6	

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Retrieving (Obedience And Aptitude) **Purpose:** Degree of willingness to work with humans. High correlation between ability to retrieve and successful guide dogs, obedience dogs, and field trail dogs. **Method:** Attract pup's attention with crumpled paper ball. When he is watching, toss paper 4 feet away. When pup goes after it back up two feet and encourage him to come back.	Chases object, picks it up and runs away ..... 1 Chases object, stands over it, does not return ..... 2 Chases object, picks it up and returns to tester ..... (3) Chases object, returns without object to tester ..... 4 Starts to chase, loses interest. ..... 5 Does not chase 6	goes out takes it behind tester
Touch Sensitivity **Purpose:** Degree of sensitivity to touch. **Method:** Take webbing of one front foot and press between finger and thumb lightly, gradually increasing pressure on a scale from 1-10. Stop as soon as the puppy shows discomfort.	9-10 counts before response ..... 1 7-8 counts before response ..... 2 5-6 counts before response ..... 3 3-4 counts before response ..... (4) 1-2 counts before response 5	
Sound Sensitivity **Purpose:** Degree of sensitivity to sound. **Method:** Place pup in center of testing area and make a sharp noise a few feet away. A large metal spoon struck sharply on a metal pan twice works well.	Locates the sound, walks towards it ... 1 Locates sound, barks ..... 2 Locates sound, shows curiosity, walks towards it ..... 3 Locates the sound ..... 4 ~~Cringes,~~ backs off, hides ..... (5) Ignores sound, shows no curiosity. ... 6	stays away - Knows where the Sound Comes from does not investigate
Chase Instinct **Purpose:** Degree of response to moving object; chase instinct. **Method:** Tie a string around a towel and drag it in front of the puppy from left to right.	Looks, attacks, bites ..... 1 Looks, barks, tail-up ..... 2 Looks curiously, attempts to investigate ..... 3 Looks, does not go forward, tail down ..... (4) Runs away, hides ..... 5 Ignores, shows no curiosity 6	did not like Rag + left
Stability **Purpose:** Degree of intelligent response to strange object. **Method:** Place pup in center of testing area. Closed umbrella is held 4 feet away and pointed perpendicular to the direction the pup faces. The umbrella is opened and set down so the pup can investigate.	Walks forward, tail up, bites ..... 1 Walks forward, tail up, mouths ..... 2 Walks forward, attempts to investigate ..... 3 Looks curiously, stays put ..... 4 Goes away, tail down, ~~hides~~ ..... (5) Ignores, shows no curiosity 6	**Note:** Puppies frequently s tle upon seeing the umbrella open. Score pup's response after umbrella set down.
Energy Level **Purpose:** Degree of physical energy. **Method:** Observe pup on the other subtests and score according to most frequent activity observed. Check with breeder for confirmation.	Continually runs, pounces, wiggles, paws ..... High Mostly trots, occasionally runs, pounces, wiggles ..... (Medium) Walks slowly, sits quietly, remains in position usually ..... Low Stands rigidly, eyes roll, tail down, ears back ..... Stress	