

GUIDELINES FOR HANDLERS

Do not hurry the dog through the test; it is not a time test to see who gets through the fastest. Dogs must be kept on a loose leash throughout the test. NOTE: Pinch collars and working collars are not permitted. A web, fur saver, standard choke (nylon or chain) or martingale collars are to be used. Dogs must be 1 (one) year of age. If you have questions, please ask. This is the most fun you can have with your dog and earn a title with no training!

Neutral Stranger: This test is to simulate a typical street situation. The stranger will walk towards you and your dog, they will ask a question and wait for your response. They will not make any overtures to the dog.

Friendly Stranger: The stranger will walk towards you, like an old friend that is happy to see you, will touch you and make overtures to the dog and will touch the dog..

Can-rattling: A volunteer will be behind a blind and will rattle a noise maker. After the rattling begins, the dog is allowed to approach the blind to investigate the source of the noise. DO NOT ALLOW male dogs to urinate on the blind. As the dog comes around the blind to discover the source of the noise and investigate the can, the dog is given 20 seconds to make a close inspection. DOG MAY BE ENCOURAGED by handler, using phrases like “what’s that?” or “find it”. You may tap the can.

Gun Test: Upon completion of the can-rattling test, move approximately 15’ beyond the next volunteer who will shoot the gun. The spot will be marked on the course. Handler and dog will then stop facing away from the shooter. The handler stands with the dog in either a standing or a sitting position (no commands are to be given to the dog). If the dog turns and/or moves toward the sound when the gun is shot, the handler may follow. The dog may be encouraged as in the can-rattling test. Be sure that the dog is on a loose leash so he/she has an opportunity to investigate the noise.

Umbrella Test: Handler and dog proceed toward the volunteer sitting in a low chair directly in the dog’s path, but facing 90 degrees to the side. When the dog is 9’ from the tip of the umbrella, the volunteer will raise it; and when the dog is about 3’ (no closer) from the tip of the umbrella, it will be opened directly toward the dog. The open umbrella is then lowered and rested on the ground while the volunteer retains the handle in his hand. The dog is allowed to move forward (with encouragement if necessary) to investigate the umbrella. You may tap the umbrella to encourage the dog to investigate.

Footing Test: Handler and dog approach a strip of polyethylene approximately 15’ long and 4’ wide. With the dog on a loose lead, they proceed directly along the length of this change of footing. Handler and dog proceed across at least a 10’ wide isle of normal footing then proceed directly across an exercise pen laid flat on the ground. The move along the length of the pen not the width.

Self-Protective/Aggressive Reaction:

- A. Handler and dog proceed downwind toward the hidden tester (weird stranger). The handler ceases to move forward as soon as tester comes into view and staggers across the dog’s path.
- B. Tester will then turn toward the dog and slowly advance. If the dog exhibits a positive reaction, continue with Part C. THE HANDLER WILL REMAIN STATIONARY.

- C. The tester then becomes threatening. When positive reaction is forthcoming, the tester should back off in a furtive manner. NO CONTACT IS TO BE MADE BETWEEN DOG AND TESTER.

FOR ALL PARTS OF THIS EXERCISE, THE HANDLER MUST NOT ALLOW THE DOG TO ADVANCE BEYOND LEASH LENGTH OF THE HANDLER'S STOPPING POINT. Pressure on the dog's collar should not be in the form of a sudden jerk.