

GUIDELINES FOR VOLUNTEERS

Thank you for volunteering to be a helper for a GSDCA Temperament Test. Your support is very much appreciated. We are glad you are here to help. Following is a description of the different positions on the Temperament Test field. The field is a simulation of things that may be encountered as an individual and a dog are walking down the street.

Neutral Stranger: This test is to simulate a typical street situation. The stranger(you) will walk towards the exhibitor and their dog. You will ask a question and wait for a response. You will only speak to the person and not make any overtures to the dog.

Friendly Stranger: The stranger (you) will walk towards the exhibitor and make an overture like an old friend that is happy to see your friend, you will touch the exhibitor (on the arm or shoulder and you will ask for permission to pet the dog.

Can-rattling: You will be placed behind a blind, where exhibitors or dogs will not be able to see you. When the Evaluator requests, you will start shaking a jug of rocks making as much noise as possible. The dog will need to investigate where the noise is coming from, when you see the dogs nose come around the blind, you will hold the jug still, out in front of you while the exhibitor encourages the dog to sniff the jug. Be sure to hold the jug out away from your body. The exhibitor may tap the can.

Gun Test: The exhibitor will move approximately 15' beyond the gun person (you); you will shoot the gun 3 times on a 4 count beat, however, the gun will only be shot on the 1, 2, and 4th count. The exhibitor and dog will then stop facing away from you. Once the gun test is complete the Evaluator will move on to the next stimuli. The dog will be given 20 seconds to recover from the sounds.

Umbrella Test: You will be seated in a chair with an automatic umbrella. The Exhibitor and dog will be told to walk straight toward the person in the chair (you). You will be facing 90 degrees from the direction of the exhibitor and dog. When the dog is 9' from the tip of the umbrella, the you 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 umbrellas is then lowered and rested on the ground while you keep the handle in your hand. The dog is allowed to move forward (with encouragement if necessary) to investigate the umbrella. The exhibitor may tap the umbrella to encourage the dog to investigate.

Footing Test: No volunteer required for this portion of the 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:

You will need to have a large raincoat or cape, a stick of some description and a large brimmed floppy hat in order to perform this part of the exercise.

- A. The exhibitor and dog will be stopped at a specific spot on the field. Exhibitor and dog proceed downwind toward the hidden tester (weird stranger). The exhibitor ceases to

move forward as soon as weird stranger comes into view and staggers across the dog's path.

- B. The you 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. You will then become 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. At this point, the Temperament Test is complete.

FOR ALL PARTS OF THIS EXERCISE, THE EXIBITOR WILL NOT ALLOW THE DOG TO ADVANCE BEYOND LEASH LENGTH OF THE HANDLER'S STOPPING POINT.