

VOLHARD PUPPY APTITUDE TEST

Date: 4/13/08

Puppy: Pumpkin Female

Test	Purpose	Score	#
SOCIAL ATTRACTION Place puppy in test area about four feet from the tester. Tester kneels, leans backwards and coaxes the pup to her/him by clapping hands gently.	Degree of social attraction to people, confidence, or dependence. Pack Drive.	Came readily, tail up, jumped, bit at hands.	1
		Came readily, tail up, pawed, licked at hands.	2
		Came readily, tail up.	3
		Came readily, tail down.	4
		Came hesitantly, tail down.	5
		Didn't come at all.	6
FOLLOWING The tester stands up and slowly walks away encouraging the puppy to follow. Make sure the pup sees you walk away. Coax puppy to follow by talking to it and attracting its attention.	Willingness to follow a person. Pack Drive.	Followed readily, tail up, got underfoot, bit at feet.	1
		Followed readily, tail up, got underfoot.	2
		Followed readily, tail up.	3
		Followed readily, tail down.	4
		Followed hesitantly, tail down.	5
		Did not follow or went away.	6
RESTRAINT The tester crouches down and gently rolls the pup on its back and holds it down with light pressure with one hand for 30 seconds.	Degree of dominance or submissive tendency, and ease of handling in difficult situations. Fight or Flight Drive.	Struggled fiercely, flailed, bit.	1
		Struggled fiercely, flailed.	2
		Settled, struggled, settled with some eye contact.	3
		Struggled then settled.	4
		No struggle, no eye contact.	5
		No struggle, straining to avoid eye contact.	6
SOCIAL DOMINANCE Puppy sits or stands on crouching tester's left side and tester gently strokes it from the head to back. Continue stroking until a recognizable behavior is established.	Degree of acceptance of social dominance by a person. Pack Drive.	Jumped, pawed, bit, growled.	1
		Jumped, pawed.	2
		Cuddled up to tester and tried to lick face.	3
		Squirmed, licked at hands.	4
		Rolled over, licked at hands.	5
		Went away and stayed away.	6
ELEVATION DOMINANCE The tester cradles the pup under its chest, with both hands, fingers interlaced, palms up and gently lifts it two feet off the ground, and holds it there for 30 seconds.	Degree of accepting dominance while in position of no control. Fight or Flight Drive.	Struggled fiercely, tried to bite.	1
		Struggled fiercely.	2
		Struggled, settled, struggled, settled.	3
		No struggle, relaxed.	4
		No struggle, body stiff.	5
		No struggle, froze.	6

Test	Purpose	Score	#
<p align="center">RETRIEVING</p> <p>The tester crouches beside the pup and attracts its attention with a crumpled up piece of paper. When the pup shows some interest, the tester tosses the paper no more than four feet in front of the pup, encouraging it to retrieve the paper.</p>	<p>Degree of willingness to do something for you. Together with social attraction and following, a key indicator for ease or difficulty in training. Prey Drive.</p>	Chased object, picked it up and ran away.	1
		Chased object, stood over it, and did not return.	2
		Chased object, picked it up and returned with it to tester.	③
		Chased object and returned without it to tester.	4
		Started to chase object, lost interest.	5
		Did not chase object.	6
<p align="center">TOUCH SENSITIVITY</p> <p>The tester locates the webbing of one of the puppy's front paws and presses it lightly between his index finger and thumb. The tester gradually increases pressure while counting to 10 and stops the pressure when the puppy pulls away or shows discomfort.</p> <p><i>* Do not use your fingernail when performing this test. Press between the finger and thumb lightly then more firmly until you get a response.</i></p>	<p>Degree of sensitivity to touch and a key indicator to the type of training equipment required.</p>	8-10 counts before response.	1
		6-7 counts before response.	2
		5-6 counts before response.	3
		2-4 counts before response.	④
		1-2 counts before response.	5
<p align="center">SOUND SENSITIVITY</p> <p>The puppy is placed in the center of the testing area and an assistant stationed at the perimeter makes a sharp noise, such as banging a metal spoon on the bottom of a metal pan.</p>	<p>Degree of sensitivity to sound. (Also a rudimentary test for deafness.) Prey Drive.</p>	Listened, located sound, walked toward it barking.	1
		Listened, located sound, barked.	2
		Listened, located sound, showed curiosity and walked toward sound.	3
		Listened, located the sound.	④
		Cringed, backed off, hid.	5
		Ignored sound, showed no curiosity.	6
<p align="center">SIGHT SENSITIVITY</p> <p>The puppy is placed in the center of the testing area. The tester ties a string around a bath towel and jerks it across the floor two feet away from puppy.</p>	<p>Degree of response to a moving object, such as chasing bicycles, children or squirrels. Prey Drive.</p>	Looked, attacked and bit.	1
		Looked, barked and tail up.	2
		Looked curiously, attempted to investigate.	③
		Looked, barked, tailtuck.	4
		Ran away, hid.	5
<p align="center">STABILITY</p> <p>An umbrella is opened about five feet from the puppy and gently placed on the ground.</p>	<p>Degree of startle response to a strange object. Fight and Flight Drive.</p>	Looked and ran to the umbrella, mouthing or biting it.	1
		Looked and walked to the umbrella, smelling it cautiously.	②
		Looked and went to investigate.	3
		Sat and looked, but did not move toward the umbrella.	4
		Ran away from the umbrella.	5
		Showed no interest.	6

Test	Purpose	Score	
<p align="center">STRUCTURE</p> <p>The puppy is gently set and held in a natural stance and evaluated for structure in the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Straight front · Straight rear · Shoulder lay back · Front angulation · Croup angulation · Rear angulation 	<p>Degree of structural soundness. Good structure is necessary.</p>	<p>The puppy is correct in structure.</p> <p align="center">HIGH TAILSET</p>	<p align="center">good</p>
		<p>The puppy has a slight fault or deviation.</p>	<p align="center">fair</p>
		<p>The puppy has an extreme fault or deviation.</p>	<p align="center">poor</p>



Dog's name: PLAINFACE FEMALE

Breed: Australian Cattle Dog

Age: 3 WKS

Sex: FEMALE

Markings: PLAINFACE

Testing Date: 4/3/09

Further Comments:

WHAT DO THE SCORES MEAN?

Mostly 1s -

Strong desire to be pack leader and is not shy about bucking for a promotion

Has a predisposition to be aggressive to people and other dogs and will bite

Should only be placed into a very experienced home where the dog will be trained and worked on a regular basis

Top Dog Tips: Stay away from the puppy with a lot of 1s or 2s. It has lots of leadership aspirations and may be difficult to manage.

This puppy needs an experienced home. Not good with children.

Mostly 2s -

Also has leadership aspirations

May be hard to manage and has the capacity to bite

Has lots of self-confidence

Should not be placed into an inexperienced home

Too unruly to be good with children and elderly people, or other animals

Needs strict schedule, loads of exercise and lots of training

Has the potential to be a great show dog with someone who understands dog behavior

Mostly 3s -

Can be a high-energy dog and may need lots of exercise

Good with people and other animals

Can be a bit of a handful to live with

Needs training, does very well at it and learns quickly

Great dog for second time owner.

Mostly 4s -

The kind of dog that makes the perfect pet

Best choice for the first time owner.

Rarely will buck for a promotion in the family

Easy to train, and rather quiet.

Good with elderly people, children, although may need protection from the children

Choose this pup, take it to obedience classes, and you'll be the star, without having to do too much work!

Tidbits: The puppy with mostly 3s and 4s can be quite a handful, but should be good with children and does well with training.

Energy needs to be dispersed with plenty of exercise.

Mostly 5s -

Fearful, shy and needs special handling

Will run away at the slightest stress in its life

Strange people, strange places, different floor or ground surfaces may upset it

Often afraid of loud noises and terrified of thunder storms. When you greet it upon your return, may submissively urinate.

Needs a very special home where the environment doesn't change too much and where there are no children

Best for a quiet, elderly couple

If cornered and cannot get away, has a tendency to bite

Top Dog Tips: Avoid the puppy with several 6s. It is so independent it doesn't need you or anyone.

He is his own person and unlikely to bond to you.

Mostly 6s -

So independent that he doesn't need you or other people

Doesn't care if he is trained or not - he is his own person. Unlikely to bond to you, since he doesn't need you.

A great guard dog for gas stations!

Do not take this puppy and think you can change him into a lovable bundle - you can't, so leave well enough alone

INTERPRETING THE SCORES

Few puppies will test with all 2s or all 3s - there will be a mixture of scores.

For that first time, wonderfully easy to train, potential star, look for a puppy that scores with mostly 4s and 3s.

Don't worry about the score on Touch Sensitivity - you can compensate for that with the right training equipment.

Tidbits:

It's hard not to become emotional when picking a puppy - they are all so cute, soft and cuddly.

Sleep on it and review it in the light of day.

Remind yourself that this dog is going to be with you for 8 to 16 years. Don't hesitate to step back a little to contemplate your decision.

Avoid the puppy with a score of 1 on the Restraint and Elevation tests. This puppy will be too much for the first time owner.

It's a lot more fun to have a good dog, one that is easy to train, one you can live with and one you can be proud of, than one that is a constant struggle.