

Companion Paws Therapy Dog Evaluation

Handler:

Dog:

Type of Dog: Personal _____ Assisted _____ Visiting _____ CPC Personal _____

Start Line: Set out two cones where people will stand between stations.

COMING WHEN CALLED and SIT AND DOWN ON COMMAND/STAYING IN PLACE test 1,2

1. Dog will sit at start line. Handler will tell them to stay and walk 5 paces. They will turn and call the dog. The dog will come even with distraction of two people standing on either side of the route between the line and the owner. The dog will be asked to lie down. They will proceed to station 2.

This test demonstrates that the dog will come when called by the handler and that the dog has training, will respond to the handler's commands to sit and down, and will remain in the place commanded by the handler (sit or down position, whichever the handler prefers).

Handler and Dog

1. The dog may change position, but must remain in place when waiting for the command to come.
2. When called, the dog must come at a reasonable speed without stopping to sniff or wandering off.
3. The dog may drop its head to sniff, but must continue towards the handler.
4. The dog must come close enough for the handler to touch it but is not required to sit.
5. The handler may use body motions and verbal encouragement.

Dogs that exhibit the following will be rated as "Not Ready":

- The dog does not remain in place when the handler walks away.
- The dog does not come on command at a reasonable speed.
- The dog sniffs or wanders off (It is acceptable if the dog drops its head to sniff, but continues toward the handler.)

2. The dog will be asked to heel between station 2 and station 3. The handler will walk in a figure 8 and the dog will follow on a loose leash.

This test demonstrates that the handler is in control of the dog, the dog has training, will respond to the handler's commands to sit and down, and will remain in the place commanded by the handler (sit or down position, whichever the handler prefers). The dog can be on either side of the handler, whichever the handler prefers. The handler may take a reasonable amount of time and use more than one command to make the dog sit and then down. When instructed by the Evaluator, the handler tells the dog to stay and walks forward the length of a 20-foot line. The dog must remain in place, but may change position.

Handler and Dog

1. The handler may take a reasonable amount of time and may use more than one command to sit or down the dog.
2. The handler may gently touch the dog in an effort to assist the dog in assuming either the sit or down position.
3. The handler may not physically place or force the dog into position. The handler may repeat a command and use signals and gestures to assist the dog as well as a light touch.
4. Once prone, the dog must remain in place.
5. Once the dog is in either the sit or down position, the handler is to command “stay”, then walk away from the dog to the end of the long line.
6. Once reaching the end of the long line, the handler will turn to face the dog and without pausing return to the dog.
7. The handler is not required to walk behind the dog in returning to heel position
8. The handler is not required to wait for the evaluator to indicate an end to the test after he returns to the dog.

Dogs that exhibit the following will be rated as “Not Ready”:

- The dog does not respond to basic commands of sit or down.
- The dog does not obey the command to stay in place.

REACTIONS TO DISTRACTIONS test 3, 12

3. Station 3 will have a clip board on the ground with 2 people standing at the cone. The handler and dog will go to station 3. Two people standing there will talk very loud while the dog watches and one of the people will pick up the clip board and then drop it.

This test demonstrates that the dog is confident at all times when faced with common distracting situations, such as the dropping of a large book or a jogger running in front of the dog. The dog may express a natural interest and curiosity and/or appear slightly startled, but should not panic, try to run away, show aggressiveness or bark.

Handler and Dog

1. The handler may command the dog to walk at heel while the individuals walk by.
2. The handler may speak encouragingly to the dog, but may not steer the dog with the leash nor attempt to restrain the dog.
3. The dog may startle but should recover quickly.
4. The dog may express natural interest and curiosity.
5. The dog may bark once or twice.

Dogs that exhibit the following will be rated as “Not Ready”

- The dog shows panic, tries to run away or shows aggressiveness.
- The dog does not respond to the handler’s commands.
- The dog shows fear.
- The dog continues to bark.

REACTION TO MEDICAL EQUIPMENT test 4,5

4. The handler and dog will walk to station 4. There will be a person on crutches who will walk with the dog and handler to station 5. The crutch walker will stumble, drop crutches and be annoying.

This test demonstrates reactions to common health care equipment such as a wheelchair, crutches, cane, walker, or other devices which would ordinarily be found in a facility.

Handler and Dog

1. The handler may command the dog to walk at heel.
2. The handler may speak encouragingly to the dog, but may not steer the dog with the leash nor attempt to restrain the dog.
3. The dog may startle but should recover quickly.
4. The dog may express natural interest and curiosity.

Dogs that exhibit the following will be rated as "Not Ready"

- The dog shows panic, tries to run away or shows aggressiveness.
- The dog does not respond to the handler's commands.
- The dog shows fear.
- The dog continues to bark.

5. At station 5 there will be a wheel chair. The handler, dog and wheelchair will proceed to station 6.

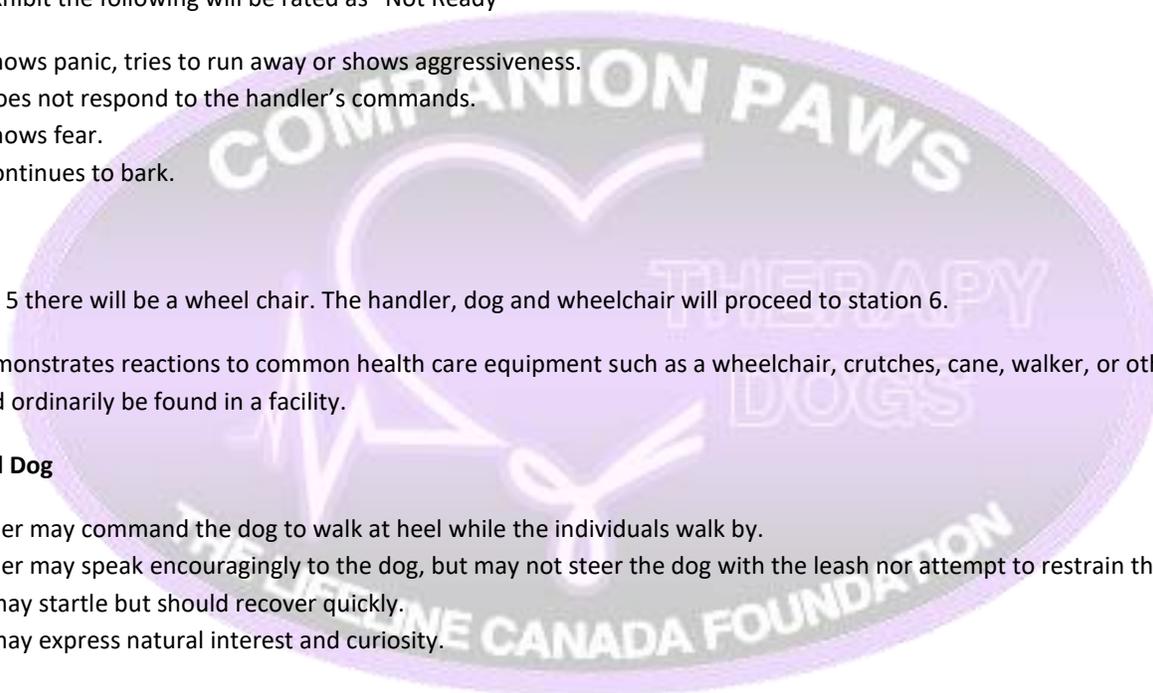
This test demonstrates reactions to common health care equipment such as a wheelchair, crutches, cane, walker, or other devices which would ordinarily be found in a facility.

Handler and Dog

1. The handler may command the dog to walk at heel while the individuals walk by.
2. The handler may speak encouragingly to the dog, but may not steer the dog with the leash nor attempt to restrain the dog.
3. The dog may startle but should recover quickly.
4. The dog may express natural interest and curiosity.

Dogs that exhibit the following will be rated as "Not Ready"

- The dog shows panic, tries to run away or shows aggressiveness.
- The dog does not respond to the handler's commands.



ACCEPTING A FRIENDLY STRANGER, SITTING POLITELY FOR PETTING AND AGGRAVATING STRANGER test 6,7

6. At station 6 there will be 3 people. At the station the dog, owner and people will begin talking and then one person will reach down and begin petting the dog. Then the other 2 will join in so that all three people are petting the dog at the same time. The dog and owner will proceed to station 7.

This test demonstrates that the dog will allow a friendly stranger to touch it while it is out with its handler. The dog should sit at the handler's side as the Evaluator approaches and begins to pet the dog on the head and body only. The dog may stand in place to accept petting. The dog must not show shyness or resentment.

Handler and Dog

1. The dog is to be sitting beside the handler (either left or right side is acceptable).
2. The handler may talk to his/her dog throughout the exercise.
3. The dog does not have to maintain the sitting position but must remain in place.
4. If the handler commands the dog to sit and the dog does not respond, the handler may lightly touch the dog on the hindquarters but may not physically force the dog into a sitting position.
5. The handler may not physically restrain the dog either by use of the collar or any other method.

Dogs that exhibit the following will be rated as "Not Ready":

- The dog is not steady when a stranger goes to pet him/her
- The dog attempts to jump up
- The dog exhibits resentment or shyness

7. There will be a person at station 7 who will sit down on the ground and begin bugging the dog, as if they were a child. Poking, prodding, pulling ears, pulling tail.

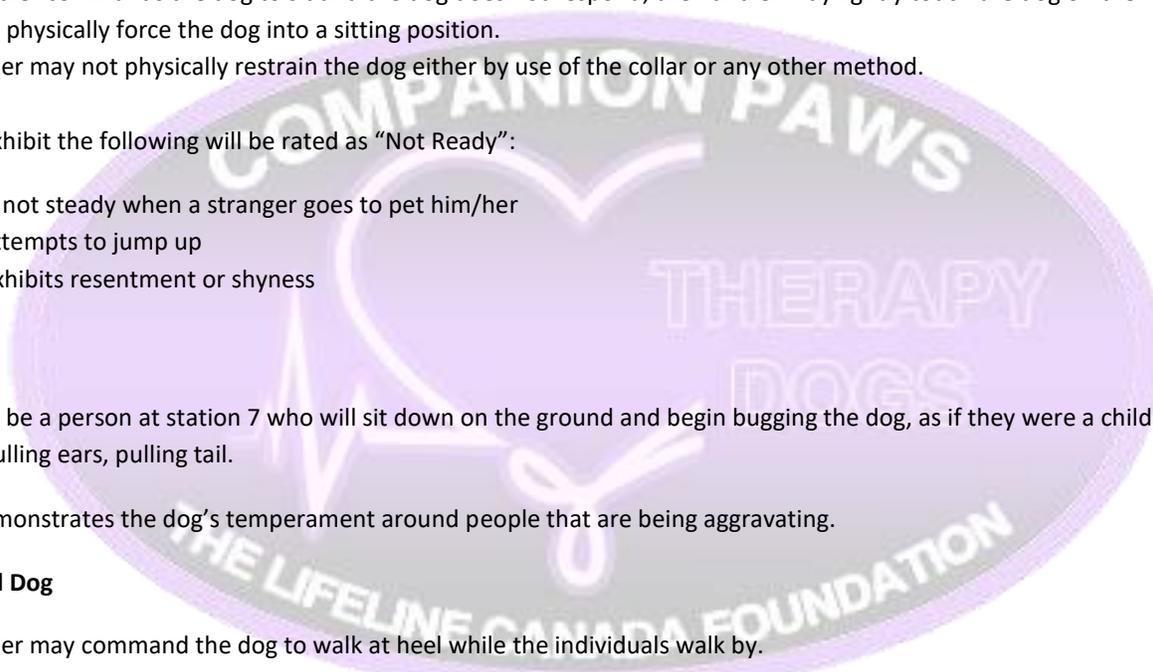
This test demonstrates the dog's temperament around people that are being aggravating.

Handler and Dog

1. The handler may command the dog to walk at heel while the individuals walk by.
2. The handler may speak encouragingly to the dog, but may not steer the dog with the leash nor attempt to restrain the dog.
3. The dog may startle but should recover quickly.
4. The dog may express natural interest and curiosity.
5. The dog may bark once or twice.

Dogs that exhibit the following will be rated as "Not Ready"

- The dog shows panic, tries to run away or shows aggressiveness.
- The dog does not respond to the handler's commands.
- The dog shows fear.
- The dog continues to bark.



LEAVE IT test 8,9

8. Station 8 will have food, as will station 9. The food at station 8 will be popcorn dropped on the floor.

This test demonstrates, upon command, that the dog ignores the food. The handler with the dog on a loose leash walks past food on the ground (placed within a distance of three feet).

Handler and Dog

1. The dog may be on either side of the handler.
2. The handler may speak quietly to the dog throughout the test.
3. The dog is required to walk near the handler without pulling or straining.
4. The leash should be loose to demonstrate that the dog is under control and is not being steered by the handler.

Dogs that exhibit the following will be rated as “Not Ready”:

- The dog does not respond to the handler’s movements and commands.
- The handler must pull the leash taut to control the dog.
- The dog does not walk quietly without restraint.
- The dog is not attentive to the handler

9. Station 9 will have people food on a plate.

This test demonstrates, upon command, that the dog ignores the food. The handler with the dog on a loose leash walks past food on the ground (placed within a distance of three feet).

Handler and Dog

1. The dog may be on either side of the handler.
2. The handler may speak quietly to the dog throughout the test.
3. The dog is required to walk near the handler without pulling or straining.
4. The leash should be loose to demonstrate that the dog is under control and is not being steered by the handler.

Dogs that exhibit the following will be rated as “Not Ready”:

- The dog does not respond to the handler’s movements and commands.
- The handler must pull the leash taut to control the dog.
- The dog does not walk quietly without restraint.
- The dog is not attentive to the handler

SAY HELLO test 10

10. Walk up to station 10 and have the dog sit, a person will come up from behind the dog and lightly touch them with their foot. Then move around to the front of the dog and look at the handler. Say hi and walk away.

This test demonstrates the willingness of the dog to visit a person and that the dog can be accessible for petting. The Companion Paws Evaluator will test the willingness of the dog to visit a person and that the dog can be accessible for petting (i.e., small dogs can be placed on a person’s lap or can be held, medium and larger dogs can sit on a chair or stand close to the patient to be easily reached).

Handler and Dog

1. The handler may use any combination of verbal praise, and playful postures, gestures or actions to engage the dog in play or in the performance of tricks.
2. When calming the dog, the handler's voice may be firm but must not be loud or angry.
3. The handler may use more than one command to calm the dog but the dog must display an attitude of controlled behavior following calming efforts on the part of the handler.

Dogs that exhibit the following will be rated as "Not Ready":

- The handler is using forcible leash pressure to calm the dog.
- The dog does not settle quickly.
- The handler does not have control of the dog.

NO MARK MANNERS test 11

11. Station 11 will have pee smelling grass

This test demonstrates the dog will not try to mark.

The handler with the dog on a loose leash walks past pee smelling grass on the ground.

Handler and Dog

1. The dog may be on either side of the handler.
2. The handler may speak quietly to the dog throughout the test.
3. The dog is required to walk near the handler without pulling or straining.
4. The leash should be loose to demonstrate that the dog is under control and is not being steered by the handler.

Dogs that exhibit the following will be rated as "Not Ready":

- The dog does not respond to the handler's movements and commands.
- The handler must pull the leash taut to control the dog.
- The dog does not walk quietly without restraint.
- The dog is not attentive to the handler
- The dog attempts to pee on the pee smelling grass or area
- The dog pees on the pee smelling grass

REACTIONS TO DISTRACTIONS test 3, 12

12. A person will walk with the handler and dog to station 12 with their arms swinging, limping and walking erratic etc.

This test demonstrates that the dog is confident at all times when faced with common distracting situations.

This test demonstrates the dog's confidence when exposed to people walking with an uneven gait, shuffling, breathing heavily, coughing, wheezing or other distractions which may be encountered in a facility.

Handler and Dog

1. The handler may command the dog to walk at heel while the individuals walk by.
2. The handler may speak encouragingly to the dog, but may not steer the dog with the leash nor attempt to restrain the dog.
3. The dog may startle but should recover quickly.
4. The dog may express natural interest and curiosity.

Dogs that exhibit the following will be rated as "Not Ready"

- The dog shows panic, tries to run away or shows aggressiveness.
- The dog does not respond to the handler's commands.
- The dog shows fear.
- The dog continues to bark.

WALKING THROUGH A CROWD test 13

13. A group of people will be waiting between station 12 and 13. The dog will walk through a crowd and not get overly excited or distracted to get to 13.

This test demonstrates that the dog can move about politely in pedestrian traffic and is under control in public places. The dog and handler walk around and pass close to several people (at least three). The dog may show some interest in the strangers, without appearing over-exuberant, shy or resentful. The trainer may talk to the dog and encourage or praise the dog throughout the test. The dog should not be straining at the leash.

Handler and Dog

1. The dog should remain on one side of the handler for the duration of the test.
2. The dog is not required to maintain a heeling position beside the handler but may not be so far ahead or behind the handler as to create an impediment to individuals walking by.
3. The handler may talk to the dog and provide verbal encouragement and praise during the test.
4. The handler may not steer the dog with the leash.
5. The dog may show mild interest in the strangers but should not go to them.

Dogs that exhibit the following will be rated as "Not Ready":

- The dog displays more than mild interest in the strangers or goes to them.
- The dog is straining on the leash and excessive exuberance.
- The dog exhibits shyness, resentment or is jumping.
- The handler is unable to control the dog.
- The dog becomes stressed or unruly.

OUT FOR A WALK (WALKING ON A LOOSE LEASH) test 14

14. The dog will be taken by another person and walked out of sight, asked to sit, and then returned. The dog will not be overly anxious to leave or return.

This test demonstrates that a dog can be left with a trusted person, if necessary, and will maintain its training and good manners. This demonstrates that the handler is in control of the dog. The dog can be on either side of the handler, whichever the handler prefers. There must be a left turn, a right turn and an about turn, with at least one stop in between and another at the end. The dog needs not be perfectly aligned with the trainer and need not sit when the trainer stops.

Handler and Dog

1. The dog may be on either side of the handler.
2. The handler may speak quietly to the dog throughout the test.
3. The dog is required to walk near the handler without pulling or straining.
4. The leash should be loose to demonstrate that the dog is under control and is not being steered by the handler.
5. The handler & dog are required to walk a straight line, make at least one right and left turn as well as 180-degree turn.
6. The dog is not required to sit when the handler stops walking.

Dogs that exhibit the following will be rated as “Not Ready”:

- The dog does not respond to the handler’s movements and changes in direction.
- The handler must pull the leash taut to control the dog.
- The dog does not walk quietly without restraint.
- The dog is not attentive to the handler.

REACTION TO ANOTHER DOG test 15

15. One or two evaluators/assistants with a dog(s) approach each other from a distance of about 10 yards, stop, shake hands and exchange pleasantries, and continue on for about 5 yards. The dogs should show no more than a casual interest in each other.

This test demonstrates that the dog can behave politely around other dogs.

Handler and Dog

1. The handler should command the dog to heel before beginning to walk toward the other handler/dog team.
2. Upon reaching the other team, the handler should command the dog to sit, thereafter greeting the other handler and chatting briefly.
3. The dog may not be restrained.
4. The dog may show mild interest in the other handler and dog but may not move toward the other dog, or exhibit shy or aggressive behavior.
5. The handler may use additional commands to ensure a response from the dog but may not jerk or grab it.

Dogs that exhibit the following will be rated as “Not Ready”:

- The dog does not respond to the handler’s instructions.
- The handler is forced to jerk or grab the dog.
- The dog moves toward the other dog.

SUPRVISED SEPARATION test 16

16. Evaluators are encouraged to say something like, “Would you like me to watch your dog?” and then take hold of the dog’s leash. The handler will go out of sight. The dog does not have to stay in position but should not continually bark, whine, or pace unnecessarily, or show anything stronger than mild agitation or nervousness.

This test demonstrates that a dog can be left with a trusted person, if necessary, and will maintain its training and good manners.

Handler and Dog

1. The dog does not have to maintain position or place with the assistant evaluator.
2. The dog may not show signs of excessive stress.
3. Mild stress or nervousness is acceptable behavior.

Dogs that exhibit the following will be rated as “Not Ready”:

- The dog attempts to climb on the assistant evaluator.
- The dog continually barks, whines, howls, paces, and pants excessively.
- The dog pulls on the leash in an attempt to get away.

APPEARANCE AND GROOMING test 17

17. The handler will provide the evaluator with the grooming tool before the test begins.

The dog is not required to maintain a sitting position.

The handler may use light collar pressure in positioning the dog, but no physical restraint.

This practical test demonstrates that the dog will accept being groomed and examined and will permit a stranger to do so, such as a veterinarian, groomer, friend of the handler etc. It also demonstrates the owner’s care, concern and sense of responsibility for his dog’s well-being.

Handler and Dog

1. The handler will provide the evaluator with the grooming tool before the test begins.
2. The dog is not required to maintain a sitting position.
3. The handler may encourage the dog during the test.
4. The handler may use light collar pressure in positioning the dog, but no physical restraint.

Dogs that exhibit the following will be rated as “Not Ready”:

- The dog exhibits shyness or resentment.
- The dog is not clean, well groomed, does not appear healthy or in good weight.

