

# Breed Suitability Test

This test will evaluate the suitability of individual dogs to contribute to our next generation. The breed suitability test will evaluate the dog's temperament, conformation, and physical abilities. Your dog does not need to be trained to take the test, but it must be at least 18 months old. All dogs passing the test will receive a certificate of suitability.

Requirements of the breed suitability test:

## 1. Obedience. social ability, protectiveness:

The tester will subject the dog to a series of situations to evaluate its acceptance of people, obedience to the handler, and soundness in unusual circumstances. The dog must be on a six foot leash, on a flat collar or a fur saver or choke collar on the dead ring. Chain leashes are not acceptable.

a. The dog is on a loose leash. A friendly stranger approaches, and shakes hands with the handler. Another friendly stranger approaches. The handler tells the dog to down near the handler's side. The strangers walk briskly around the dog.

The handler leaves the dog down and walks away about 20 feet. The same two strangers move between the handler and the dog. The handler calls the dog.

The dog may be neutral or interested and friendly, but not aggressive or panicked.

b. The dog is on a loose leash. The team is approached by a stranger on crutches. The stranger approaches and greets the team, then departs.

The dog must be neutral or friendly, not aggressive or panicked. Initial aggression is acceptable if the dog responds to the handler's command to stop any aggression.

c. The handler walks with the dog on a loose leash along a road or path. In rapid succession, a jogger goes by, a bicyclist goes by, and a car with a loud radio goes by and blows the horn. All of these distractions approach from the rear of the dog.

The dog must remain calm. He can be interested, or neutral, but not aggressive or panicked.

d. The handler walks with the dog on a loose leash. A stranger steps into the path about 20 feet ahead. The handler has a metal bucket or other container

holding some rocks or small metal objects. The stranger shakes the container vigorously to make a loud noise, then sets the container down and walks off.

The dog must approach and preferably investigate the container, although the handler may encourage him. The dog may not panic or try to run.

e. The handler ties the dog to a post and tells the dog to down and stay. The handler moves out of sight. Another handler goes by with another dog on leash – not closer than 15 feet.

The first dog must remain calm. He may be interested, but not aggressive or panicked. He should remain down.

f. The handler walks with the dog on a loose leash. A stranger steps into the path about 20 feet ahead, and starts to threaten the handler. The stranger moves a bit closer—no closer than 10 feet—and continues to threaten the handler loudly and aggressively. The dog should react with guarding behavior. The dog does not need to bark, but he should move out in front of the handler toward the stranger. The handler may encourage the dog.

## **2. Athletic ability:**

The dog must negotiate a short course with several jumps and other obstacles. Handlers will be able to practice on the course before the test. The dog may be on or off leash.

## **3. Drive**

The handler holds the dog on a six foot leash. The dog must be on a flat collar. The handler stands still during this exercise and holds the dog firmly. A helper approaches and starts to play energetically with the dog using prey movements and a puppy tug on a line. The dog should show strong interest and be clearly stimulated by the prey movement. Preferably, the dog will try to grab the tug and possess it. If the dog does not show initial interest the helper will continue trying to arouse the dog's interest for 90 seconds before giving up. The dog should not show fear or avoidance in the situation.

## **4. Conformation:**

Dogs will be judged against a standard, and rated on a 100 point scale:

Excellent: 95-100

Very good: 85-94

Good: 75-84

Fair: 60-74

Insufficient: under 60

To qualify for the breed suitability certificate, a dog must be judged at least Good in conformation.

**5. Hip health.** We will award a temporary certificate of breed suitability, good for one year to any dog who completes the above requirements successfully. To get a permanent certificate, you must show proof of hip health, such as OFA or Penn Hip