



Interpreting Puppy Evaluation Scores

Activity Level How animatedly does the dog move throughout the test? Do they take pauses and relax, or do they roam around all the time? Is this going to be a puppy that needs a lot of activity or a puppy that's going to be content to be a lap dog?

Assertiveness (with humans and dogs) -how at ease a dog is around people. Do they adamantly resist human power (high) or do they simply yield to it (low)? We watch to see if the puppy approaches the tester on its own impulse without the tester engaging in conversation with them to try this. A dog that exhibits high levels of assertiveness may come across as authoritative when they approach. A puppy with high assertiveness, for instance, might simply take the pizza and walk away without giving it a second thought if a toddler at puppy level is holding a piece of it. A puppy with a lower amount of assertiveness and greater submissiveness may glance to the left, right, and left again before approaching the pizza, opening their mouth to tentatively grab it, and then taking off.

Motivation Does the dog want to labor for people naturally? During this part of the exam, the puppy will be instructed to play fetch, pull at the person's clothing, and interact with them. Does the dog do as the tester asks, or does the individual have to exert a lot of effort to train the puppy to comply? They have an innate desire to work for you and have fun activities with you, such as fetch, tug of war, and showing affection. This would be a high motivation level if all they wanted was to work, please you, and be in the thick of things. It may indicate low motivation if they disregard your calls or don't seem interested in playing. A medium degree of motivation could fall somewhere in the middle, indicating that there might be more to learn about your puppy. Are they driven by food, affection, or praise? One of them is often higher than the other in puppies and dogs. (This one truly reminds me of the languages of love!)

Nerve Strength/ Resilience The capacity to tolerate and regulate stress and unforeseen emotions is the essence of nerve strength and resilience. Everybody has a limit when it comes to stress, and dogs are no exception. Because you can only manage the amount of stress an individual can tolerate, not the amount they can handle, makes this trait stable. To what extent will the dog be seen in public? Will they be in circumstances where things are constantly changing and there will be a lot of unforeseen stress? If so, a medium- or high-nerve-strength puppy would be ideal. When a puppy or dog reaches their stress threshold, they may hide or lose interest if they have low nerve strength or resilience.



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Human Focus

How eager are they to pay heed to the person and "follow the pack"? Low scores indicate a desire to learn on one's own, while high scores indicate a concentration on people and attention to them. When a puppy is being evaluated, we like to see how much of their attention is on the person. Do they observe every move made by the testers? Do they put down the toy so they can focus more on the tester? To see if they are more at ease with the dog or the tester, we like to put a big plush dog in the testing area. When it comes to therapy and facility dogs, human emphasis is crucial. You want a dog who genuinely waits for you outside the shower and stays by your side all the time, or one who believes you are their entire universe and that you can never leave a room without them noticing. In particular, knowing this is crucial information to have when selecting a dog. It's important to know if a dog has a high or low human focus. In the end, it will all depend on your lifestyle and your goals for your future dog!

Confidence

How self-assured is the canine about its prowess in unfamiliar settings? How does the dog react when it enters the assessment area to the strange surroundings and objects? This characteristic is regarded as unstable, which means we might assist them in gaining confidence—how thrilling! Dogs are more obedient the less self-assured they are. People naturally want to help them when they exhibit this behavior if they lack confidence in their own talents, such as when they act uncertain or unconfident. There is no doubt that doing this is incorrect. Picking up and carrying your puppy across a doorway when they are sitting there and displaying uneasiness, for instance, will not help them gain confidence. They become less confident as a result. Rather, they require the right kind of support to finish a work so they can gain confidence! When they are self-assured, they will welcome difficulties in unfamiliar environments and approach them with curiosity and desire.

Emotion Sensitivity

People may find it more difficult to understand tenderhearted dogs because they mistakenly believe that this has anything to do with how much the puppy will love or bond with them. The term "tenderhearted" actually refers to the way that erratic human emotion affects people. We make the tester throw a fit and collapse to the ground during the test. (Although it seems ridiculous, I've actually had a lot of fun becoming a "fit thrower.")



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Emotion Sensitivity Cont...

There are several things we like to watch out for while we watch the puppy observing the tester. Does the dog believe the observer is having fun? Puppies may tug on their hair or sock, or they may even get in the tester's face and bite or lick her if they believe the tester is playing. Do they continue doing this all the time, or do they become bored and go to another toy? When a puppy is placed in a home with a child who has autism or down syndrome and the youngster is unable to express their needs effectively and starts to "throw a fit," it is crucial to recognize this temperamental trait. The puppy won't benefit if they believe they are playing. Some puppies simply go sit somewhere and chew on their toy when they see the tester getting upset. It would be deemed either mildly or not tenderhearted if they initially displayed worry before returning to their toys, or if they exhibited no concern at all and just focused on their toys. When you consider the variety of lifestyles this puppy will be a part of, you can understand how this might be beneficial!

Touch Tolerance

(compliance only-not if they like it) -How does the dog respond when it is rough-housed? (have their tail tugged, toes touched, etc.) High scores indicate that the dog was relaxed the entire time and liked being touched, while low scores indicate that the puppy doesn't manage unwanted contact well. This part of the exam will be appealing to many of the pups. To help us make sure our puppies are obedient to touch, we employ a 10-step puppy handling procedure. From the time of their birth until they return home, we employ this procedure. When a puppy or dog is obedient to touch, you can clean their ears, open their mouth in case they pick up something they shouldn't, and remove stickers from their paws or tails when a child tugs them. There are numerous instances, but this one explains why we work so hard with our puppies to improve their disposition. What distinguishes loving it from merely complying? They will return the favor if they find the contact enjoyable, or they may wag their tail, lick you. This is an excellent method of determining how much touch they can tolerate.



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Chasing Instinct

Five distinct behaviors are involved in prey drive: seeking, watching, pursuing, biting to capture, and biting to kill. These habits vary by type among canine species with strong levels of prey drive. Hounds prefer to pursue and flush out targets, whereas herding breeds have a strong chasing urge. How eager is the dog to pursue, spot, and pounce on tiny animals? Low indicates that the puppy has no interest in hunting, while high indicates that they can be taught to scavenge and should be kept away from tiny animals. (birds, ferrets hamsters, etc.)

Sound Sensitivity

Does the puppy readily flinch at sudden, startling noises? High scores indicate that the puppy is susceptible to loud sudden sounds, while low scores indicate that the puppy has a high tolerance for loud noises. Since sound and site sensitivity are erratic traits, we may, once again, assist them in developing in these areas! Puppies' eyes and ears do not open until they are 20 days old, in case you were unaware of this. We begin acclimating them to loud stimuli at that 20-day point. They can learn that loud noises, music, vacuuming, and many other activities are safe and typical by being exposed to these and other similar experiences. We enjoy playing a variety of sounds, such as thunderstorms, firecrackers, fireworks, gunshots, airplanes, children laughing, infants crying, bells ringing, banging, various musical genres, and various film genres. Consider this: the sound of a cartoon is very different from that of a romance or a war film. They become more accustomed to them when hundreds of sights and noises are introduced to them!

Sight Sensitivity

When there is an unanticipated disturbance, how anxious is the puppy? Low means they are not readily stressed by visual cues, whereas high means they may conceal if they notice something unexpected, like an exposed umbrella. Because temperament is variable, we have the tester open an umbrella throughout our evaluations. The key to sight sensitivity is movement. When something unexpected happens, we should all be startled; having some dread is normal. The tester's task is to determine if the puppy recovers in three seconds or not. If they startle and then get over it in three seconds, that makes us very happy! Should they totally collapse, it can develop into an undesirable dread, indicating that the puppy will want further care and attention!