



**PAWS'ITIVE ANIMAL ASSISTED THERAPY
(PAAT)
TEAM EVALUATION**

The purpose of this test is to assess the appropriateness of both the dog and handler for volunteering with PT's goal directed therapy dog program. A successful team must display on-going communication between dog and handler, and the Handler must demonstrate awareness of the dog's movements and stress signs at all times.

Owner Name: _____

Dog Name: _____ **Breed:** _____

Spayed/Neuter: ___ Yes ___ No **Age:** _____ **Test Date:** _____

Evaluators: _____

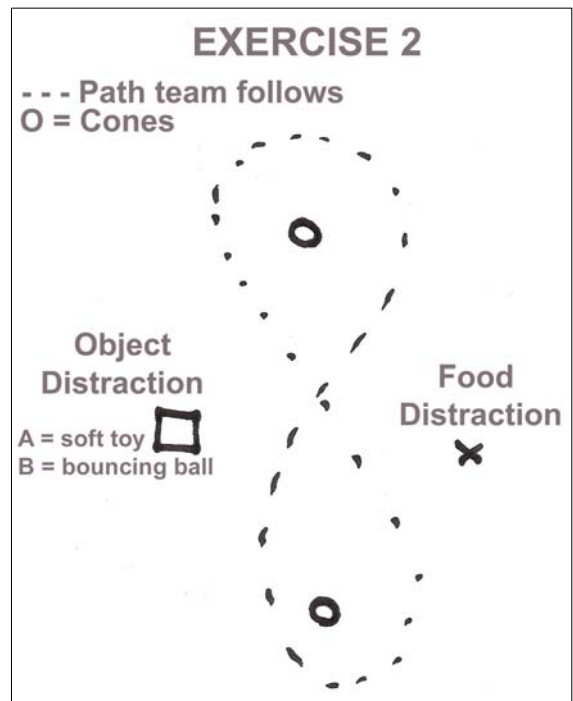
ALLOWED	NOT ALLOWED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Head collars ▪ Martingale collars ▪ Flat Collars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chain leashes ▪ Prong Collars ▪ Choke Chains ▪ Flexi Leads

SCORING

- 1 = Needs work
- 2 = Average
- 3 = Excellent
- NR = Not Ready

Automatic DISMISSAL:

1. Elimination during test
2. Growling at a person or another dog
3. Biting a person or another dog
4. Panicking and leaving test area
5. Excessive barking



Volunteers Needed:

1. One Lead Evaluator
2. One Assistant Evaluator
3. 2 - 3 Volunteers for crowd exercises
4. Neutral dog

Props Needed:

1. 2 cones
2. Food bowl and treats
3. Soft toy
4. Ball to bounce
5. Wheelchair
6. Crutch or item to drop
7. Loose flowing robe

Instructions to Handler before test begins:

1. Did you bring a brush for your dog? Be sure to give it to the Evaluator before the test begins.
2. Remember to toilet your dog before beginning test, to avoid possible Dismissal.
3. Remember, if you choose to test with the head collar, sensation harness or similar device, then your dog will always need to use that type of device during PAAT activities.
4. You will not be allowed to use food treats during this test, except for one exercise which is designed to test the “leave it” command.
5. Because the test includes touching your dog, we would like to know of any sensitive areas on your dog. Are there any portions of your dog that would pose a problem if touched?
6. Before starting the test, you may want to spend a few minutes working with your dog using activities that will encourage attention to you. Set a fun atmosphere for your dog from the beginning. If you are tense, your dog will sense your nervousness and not perform as well.
7. You are encouraged to talk to your dog throughout the test. Evaluators will be observing the relationship you have with your dog as well as your awareness of stress levels. You can re-approach a Section if needed.
8. Throughout the test, handle your dog as if on an actual therapy visit.
9. Evaluators will be looking for “**proactive**”, rather than “reactive”, responses from you as a handler throughout the test. Handlers who are consistently “reactive” and/or “inactive” during the test will be considered “Not Ready” for therapy dog work.

EXERCISE 1: TOLERANCE TO HANDLING

Purpose: To assess dog's calmness in being handled in strange and possibly unfamiliar ways.

Setup: Evaluator will approach team from about 5 feet away and will conduct all Sections within a small space, with the dog primarily in a sit or stand position.

SECTION	DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA										
A Stranger Greeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evaluator approaches team and greets handler then : ▪ checks collar ▪ makes eye contact with both ▪ shakes hands with Handler ▪ circles dog and Handler ▪ taps dog on head then along back with a long stroke (repeats this 3 times) <p>NOTE: Dog does not have to be in any specific position but should be relatively calm.</p>	<p>Criteria for dog:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> remains fairly calm, no excessive moving around <input type="checkbox"/> doesn't jump up on Evaluator <input type="checkbox"/> doesn't back away from Evaluator <p>Criteria for Handler:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> proactive in responding to stress signs <input type="checkbox"/> able to converse with Evaluator and control dog at the same time 										
COMMENTS:		<p>SCORING:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">Dog:</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">3</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">2</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">1</td> <td>NR</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Handler:</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>NR</td> </tr> </table>	Dog:	3	2	1	NR	Handler:	3	2	1	NR
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Handler:	3	2	1	NR								

B Exam	<p>NOTE: Handler should tell Evaluator of any sensitive areas on dog in advance of this exercise. Dog should be standing or sitting during exam.</p> <p>Evaluator inspects dog:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Combs or brushes lightly ▪ Examines ears ▪ Picks up both front feet ▪ Opens mouth and checks teeth ▪ Touches rump ▪ Lightly pulls fur on dog's back 	<p>Criteria for dog:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> doesn't over-react to handling <input type="checkbox"/> doesn't back away from Evaluator <p>Criteria for Handler:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> notifies Evaluator of sensitive areas <u>in advance</u> of exam <input type="checkbox"/> proactive in responding to stress signs 										
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C	<p>Exuberant and Clumsy Petting</p> <p>Evaluator kneels or sits next to dog then:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ speaks in a high pitched voice ▪ claps hands ▪ pets with elbows, fists 	<p>Criteria for dog:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> doesn't jump or scratch individual <input type="checkbox"/> doesn't panic and try to leave test area <input type="checkbox"/> doesn't back away from Evaluator <p>Criteria for Handler:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> able to get dog under control <input type="checkbox"/> able to converse with Evaluator and control dog at the same time
COMMENTS:		<p>SCORING:</p> <p>Dog: 3 2 1 NR</p> <p>Handler: 3 2 1 NR</p>

D	<p>Restraining Hug</p> <p>Evaluator sits next to dog and makes eye contact then:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ leans over dog and hugs it around shoulders. <p>NOTE: hug should clearly restrict movement. (Evaluator's face should be turned away from dog's face for safety.)</p>	<p>Criteria for dog:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> doesn't try to pull away <input type="checkbox"/> doesn't over-react to handling <p>Criteria for Handler:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> proactive in responding to stress signs
COMMENTS:		<p>SCORING:</p> <p>Dog: 3 2 1 NR</p> <p>Handler: 3 2 1 NR</p>

E	<p>Food Restraint</p> <p>1. Evaluator will offer a treat to the dog and the Handler will instruct the dog to NOT take the treat.</p> <p>2. Evaluator will offer the treat a second time and the Handler will give the dog permission to take the treat. (The purpose is to see how gently the dog accepts a treat. Although it is generally discouraged to have others give treats to the dog, there are some facility programs where this will apply.)</p>	<p>Criteria for dog:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> doesn't take food until instructed <input type="checkbox"/> doesn't nip at fingers <p>Criteria for Handler:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> gives clear directions to dog <input type="checkbox"/> tells Evaluator how to accept food <u>in advance</u> <input type="checkbox"/> praises at appropriate times
COMMENTS:		<p>SCORING:</p> <p>Dog: 3 2 1 NR</p> <p>Handler: 3 2 1 NR</p>

EXERCISE 2: OBEDIENCE

Purpose: To assess level of control Handler has over dog.

Setup: Two cones will be placed **15 feet apart**. Midway between the two cones (and off to the side, about **5 feet from center**) will be two objects, to be described in detail below. (See Diagram on Page 1)

SECTION	DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA
A Leash walking with <u>soft toy</u> and food distractions “Sit”	1. Team should be given an opportunity to do one loop as a warm up before obstacles are in place. 2. Team should watch as obstacles are placed before starting second loop. Handler will be asked to walk with the dog on a loose leash in a figure 8 around each cone. 3. At some point during the exercise, Evaluator will ask handler to have dog “sit” . Dog should hold this position until Evaluator gives instruction for team to continue walking. NOTE: Tight heel position is not required but dog should choose to walk close to Handler.	Criteria for dog: <input type="checkbox"/> walks on one side of handler and does not switch sides <input type="checkbox"/> tight heel position not required <input type="checkbox"/> responds to Handler’s movements and direction change easily <input type="checkbox"/> leash should not be constantly taut (straining against leash) Criteria for Handler: <input type="checkbox"/> able to get dog’s attention <input type="checkbox"/> uses minimal leash correction <input type="checkbox"/> gives positive feedback to dog <input type="checkbox"/> aware of dog’s position
COMMENTS:		SCORING: Dog: 3 2 1 NR Handler: 3 2 1 NR

B Leash walking with <u>ball</u> and food distractions “Down”	Same exercise as Section A except for the following changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One object will be a bouncing ball (replacing soft toy) ▪ Instead of asking the dog to “sit”, Evaluator will ask Handler to have dog “down”. 	Criteria for dog: <input type="checkbox"/> walks on one side of handler and does not switch sides <input type="checkbox"/> tight heel position not required <input type="checkbox"/> responds to Handler’s movements and direction change easily <input type="checkbox"/> leash should not be constantly taut (straining against leash) Criteria for Handler: <input type="checkbox"/> able to get dog’s attention <input type="checkbox"/> uses minimal leash correction <input type="checkbox"/> gives positive feedback to dog <input type="checkbox"/> aware of dog’s position
COMMENTS:		SCORING: Dog: 3 2 1 NR Handler: 3 2 1 NR

<p>C</p> <p>“Stay”</p>	<p>REMOVE DISTRACTORS BEFORE PROCEEDING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Team will stand beside one cone. ▪ Evaluator will ask Handler to choose either a “sit” or “down” position then ask the dog to “stay”. Additional commands are allowed. ▪ Handler will then walk to the other cone then return to the dog. ▪ Dog should not break stay position until Handler returns and <u>Evaluator instructs Handler to give a release cue.</u> 	<p>Criteria for dog:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> doesn't change positions <input type="checkbox"/> doesn't break position or “creep” towards Handler <p>Criteria for Handler:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> can repeat command <input type="checkbox"/> keeps an eye on dog
<p>COMMENTS:</p>		<p>SCORING:</p> <p>Dog: 3 2 1 NR</p> <p>Handler: 3 2 1 NR</p>

<p>D</p> <p>Recall</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Team will stand beside one cone. ▪ Evaluator will ask Handler to choose either a “sit” or “down” position then ask the dog to “stay”. ▪ Handler will then walk to the other cone. ▪ When requested by Evaluator, Handler will call dog. 	<p>Criteria for dog:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> comes directly to Handler, close enough for Handler to touch collar <input type="checkbox"/> doesn't run past Handler or stray towards another person or object <p>Criteria for Handler:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> uses “happy” voice <input type="checkbox"/> proactive in getting dog's attention if it starts to stray during recall
<p>COMMENTS:</p>		<p>SCORING:</p> <p>Dog: 3 2 1 NR</p> <p>Handler: 3 2 1 NR</p>

EXERCISE 3: DISTRACTIONS

Purpose: To test dog's ability to handle the "unexpected".

Setup: Team will start at one end of test area then walk around within the designated area. While team is walking across this area, a "crowd" of volunteers will cross both in front of and behind team, with a variety of distracted settings.

SECTION	DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA																								
<p><u>First time through test area:</u></p> <p>A: Walking through a crowd</p> <p>B: Bumped from behind</p>	<p>Team will be asked to walk casually around testing area with the following distractions.</p> <p>Evaluator will signal end of exercise.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Volunteer with wheelchair will cross path ▪ Volunteer will drop a crutch or other loud object behind dog (no closer than 5 feet from dog) ▪ Volunteer will approach and bump against the dog, with no warning. 	<p>Criteria for dog:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> has a loose leash most of the time <input type="checkbox"/> may show interest in crowd but not interact with crowd <input type="checkbox"/> doesn't sniff excessively <input type="checkbox"/> allowed to startle when object dropped but recovers within a reasonable time <p>Criteria for Handler:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> leash should be fairly loose <input type="checkbox"/> aware of dog's body posture <input type="checkbox"/> uses "happy" voice to reassure dog if stressed 																								
<p>COMMENTS:</p>	<p>SCORING:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 5%;">A</td> <td style="width: 15%;">Dog:</td> <td style="width: 5%;">3</td> <td style="width: 5%;">2</td> <td style="width: 5%;">1</td> <td style="width: 10%;">NR</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Handler:</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>NR</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B</td> <td>Dog:</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>NR</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Handler:</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>NR</td> </tr> </table>		A	Dog:	3	2	1	NR		Handler:	3	2	1	NR	B	Dog:	3	2	1	NR		Handler:	3	2	1	NR
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<p>Second time through test area:</p> <p>C: Staggering, gesturing stranger</p> <p>D: Angry yelling</p> <p>E: Crowded petting</p>	<p>Team will be asked to walk casually around testing area with the following distractions. Evaluator will signal end of exercise.</p> <p>NOTE: Activities should not happen simultaneously. Start with Staggering stranger then do angry yelling while first volunteer sheds robe to prepare for crowded petting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Volunteer, wearing an open robe, walks up to team while using a crutch then starts gesturing wildly and moaning as if in pain then retreats slightly. ▪ Two volunteers walk up in a neutral position (maintaining 6 feet from Team). They start yelling angrily at each other, building volume, for 10 seconds. They then stop yelling and become members of the crowd. ▪ The 3 volunteers then all attempt to pet the dog at the same time. Volunteers can be standing, sitting or kneeling. 	<p>Criteria for dog:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> has a loose leash most of the time <input type="checkbox"/> may show interest in crowd but not interact with crowd <input type="checkbox"/> doesn't sniff excessively <input type="checkbox"/> allowed to startle when object dropped but recovers within a reasonable time <p>Criteria for Handler:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> leash fairly loose <input type="checkbox"/> aware of dog's body posture <input type="checkbox"/> uses "happy" voice to reassure dog if stressed 																																			
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EXERCISE 4: NEUTRAL DOG

Purpose: To assess degree of dog reactivity to a neutral.

Setup: Dogs should approach on loose leashes and should be focused on the handler and able to resist interacting with one another. Handler is allowed to position dog on side away from approaching dog. Situation should be relaxed and as natural as possible.

SECTION	DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA										
A Neutral Dog	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Volunteer with neutral dog approaches Team from a distance of 10 yards. ▪ Dog handlers stop, sit dogs, shake hands and exchange pleasantries, but not linger. ▪ Handlers continue on to end of test area. ▪ Handler should keep his/her body between dog and Neutral Dog. ▪ Handler is encouraged to use voice to get dog focused. 	<p>Criteria for dog:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> doesn't touch other dog <input type="checkbox"/> doesn't growl <input type="checkbox"/> maintains a controlled position such as a "sit" during greeting <p>Criteria for Handler:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> able to anticipate dog's movement towards other dog <input type="checkbox"/> able to get dog's attention when needed 										
COMMENTS:		<p>SCORING:</p> <table style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td>Dog:</td> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">3</td> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">2</td> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">1</td> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">NR</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Handler:</td> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">3</td> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">2</td> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">1</td> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">NR</td> </tr> </table>	Dog:	3	2	1	NR	Handler:	3	2	1	NR
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EXERCISE 5: SEPARATION FROM HANDLER

Purpose: To assess skills of Handler during a typical therapy greeting and in directing another person in giving basic commands to dog. Test will also assess ability of dog to remain calm when handler is out of sight.

Setup: Evaluator will serve as unfamiliar handler and will take direction from Handler in learning how to give commands to dog being tested. Section B will require Handler to hand over leash to Evaluator and move out of sight for **3 minutes**.

SECTION	DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA										
A Greeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evaluator will be seated in a wheelchair with a stuffed toy in the lap. ▪ Team will approach as if on a therapy visit. ▪ Evaluator will make the comment, using a very annoyed tone, <i>“I’m supposed to have my meds by 3 o’clock and they haven’t brought them to me yet”</i> 	<p>Criteria for dog:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> remains fairly calm, no excessive moving around <input type="checkbox"/> doesn’t jump up on Evaluator <input type="checkbox"/> doesn’t back away from Evaluator <p>Criteria for Handler:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> proactive in responding to stress signs <input type="checkbox"/> able to converse with Evaluator and control dog at the same time <input type="checkbox"/> responds appropriately to patient’s comment 										
COMMENTS:		<p>SCORING:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">Dog:</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">3</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">2</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">1</td> <td>NR</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Handler:</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>NR</td> </tr> </table>	Dog:	3	2	1	NR	Handler:	3	2	1	NR
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Handler:	3	2	1	NR								

B Unfamiliar Handler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Handler gives leash to Evaluator and then instructs Evaluator in effectively giving commands to dog. ▪ Commands should include 3 basic commands chosen by Handler; such as “sit”, “down”, “stay”, “stand”, or recall. ▪ Handler may substitute a trick such as “shake” for one of the commands. ▪ Handler should explain commands that dog is familiar with. ▪ Handler should give clear directions as to ways dog will respond to selected commands/tricks. 	<p>Criteria for dog:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> responds to new handler <input type="checkbox"/> allowed to look at Handler but responds to commands of new handler <p>Criteria for Handler:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> gives clear directions to Evaluator <input type="checkbox"/> explains commands dog is familiar with <input type="checkbox"/> does NOT give any commands directly to dog but can demonstrate prior to having Evaluator give commands 						
COMMENTS: <i>Informational only</i> <i>Not included in score tally</i>		<p>SCORING:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 40px;">Dog:</td> <td style="padding-right: 40px;">Ready</td> <td>Not Ready</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Handler:</td> <td>Ready</td> <td>Not Ready</td> </tr> </table>	Dog:	Ready	Not Ready	Handler:	Ready	Not Ready
Dog:	Ready	Not Ready						
Handler:	Ready	Not Ready						

<p>C</p> <p>Separation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Handler gives leash to Evaluator then instructs dog to “wait” or “stay”. Dog does not have to hold one position. Evaluator should be seated while holding leash. ▪ Handler then walks to an area out of sight. ▪ Evaluator is allowed to communicate with the dog and should remain as calm as possible ▪ Handler remains out of sight for 3 minutes. 	<p>Criteria for dog:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> no excessive whining <input type="checkbox"/> allowed to move around but not lunge against leash <input type="checkbox"/> doesn’t panic nor exhibit hyper-type behaviors <input type="checkbox"/> doesn’t try to leave immediate area <p>Criteria for Handler:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> must be out of sight <input type="checkbox"/> does not talk within ear range of dog
<p>COMMENTS:</p>		<p>SCORING:</p> <p>Dog: 3 2 1 NR</p>