

We know how important it is to match puppies with the best possible homes, whether they are destined to be show dogs, working dogs, sport dogs, service animals, or companions.

We observe them from birth and get to know each personality as it develops. Temperament testing can give you a better idea of what a particular puppy might excel at or which home will best fit.

A temperament test is a snapshot of what potential a puppy has to offer. In my many years of performing them, I have found significant personality differences sprinkled into every litter.

Helpful tests are problem-solving tests, resource-guarding tests, and toy-drive tests. These evaluations give you an idea of which puppy might be the best candidate for the dog sports you might be interested in or which one might be the best fit for your current pack.

Temperament test scores don't necessarily reflect exactly how a puppy will grow up, but they can give a good indication. A puppy's environment and socialization until adulthood have a big impact. However, temperament testing is a valuable tool that can help place puppies in homes where they will thrive.

Puppies go through many developmental stages, including fear periods, which shape their behavior as adults. Both good and bad experiences during the puppy's first year of life have a major influence on what the adult version of that dog will be.

When going home it is the new owner's responsibility to continue positive socialization experiences for the puppy, to get the best possible puppy from what good genetics and early socialization produced.

We do not prepare puppies for temperament testing; we prepare them for life. We expose our puppies to many sights, sounds, and textures, and we introduce them to dogs, cats, male voices, and children.

The testing is completed in a room unfamiliar to the puppies by a person who has little to no interaction with them. We want to see how they react when outside of their comfort zone.

The tests are as follows:

- 1. Social Attraction - degree of social attraction to people, confidence or dependence.**
- 2. Following - willingness to follow a person.**
- 3. Restraint - degree of dominant or submissive tendency, and ease of handling in difficult situations.**
- 4. Social Dominance - degree of acceptance of social dominance by a person.**
- 5. Elevation - degree of accepting dominance while in a position of no control, such as at the veterinarian or groomer.**
- 6. Retrieving - degree of willingness to do something for you. Together with Social Attraction and Following a key indicator for ease or difficulty in training.**
- 7. Touch Sensitivity - degree of sensitivity to touch and a key indicator to the type of training equipment required.**
- 8. Sound Sensitivity - degree of sensitivity to sound, such as loud noises or thunderstorms.**
- 9. Sight Sensitivity - degree of response to a moving object, such as chasing bicycles, children or squirrels.**
- 10. Stability - degree of startle response to a strange object.**

Puppy Tested

Addison (Red/White Female)

Litter

Lady 12/18/2024

Test Date

1/30/2025

Test

Social Attraction

Score

Response

5 Came hesitantly, tail down

Following	Score 4 Followed readily tail down
Restraint	Score 5 No struggle
Social Dominance	Score 4 Squirmed, licked hands
Elevation Dominance	Score 4 No struggle, relaxed
Retrieving	Score 5 Started to chase object, lost interest
Touch Sensitivity	Score 6 1-2 count before response
Sound Sensitivity	Score 4 Listened and located sound
Sight Sensitivity	Score 2 Looked and put feet on object and put mouth on it
Stability	Score 2 Looked and walked to the umbrella, smelling it cautiously

The Puppy Aptitude Test uses a scoring system from 1-6 and consists of ten tests. The tests are done consecutively in the order listed. Each test is scored separately, and interpreted on its own merits. The scores are not averaged and there are no winners or losers. The entire purpose is to select the right puppy for your lifestyle and your home.

Interpreting the test scores

Mostly 4's

Best choice for the first time pet owner. Easy to train and may be quiet. Good with elderly people and children although may need protection from young children.