

PET PARTNERS TEAM EVALUATION

Skills Exercises for Dogs

Review the Handler's Questionnaire Form

- ▶ You meet the team evaluator and the evaluator's assistants.
- ▶ The evaluator reviews your handler's questionnaire.
- ▶ You share with the evaluator how your dog signals to you that it needs a break or that it's time to leave.

Accepting a Friendly Stranger*

- ▶ You and the evaluator greet each other and shake hands.
- ▶ The evaluator looks at but doesn't touch your dog.
- ▶ The evaluator walks around behind your team and then returns to his or her starting place.
- ▶ Your dog may change position but must remain next to you.

Accepting Petting

- ▶ The evaluator approaches again and pets your dog on the head and body.
- ▶ Your dog may change position but must remain next to you.
- ▶ Your dog must willingly accept petting.

Appearance and Grooming*

- ▶ The evaluator feels your dog's coat and looks at its eyes, ears and toenails.
- ▶ The evaluator picks up and holds each front foot separately.
- ▶ The evaluator briefly brushes your dog in a natural manner.
- ▶ Your dog may change position but must accept handling.

Out for a Walk*

- ▶ The evaluator explains what path to walk along.
- ▶ Your team will be asked to stop twice during the walk.
- ▶ Your dog must walk on a loose lead with its attention on you.
- ▶ Your dog does not need to heel perfectly but should remain close and next to you.

Walk Through a Crowd*

- ▶ The evaluator explains what path to walk along.
- ▶ Three assistants will walk through the area that you're walking through.
- ▶ You proactively navigate the crowd.

- ▶ Your dog must walk on a loose lead with its attention on you; it may not approach for visits independently.
- ▶ Your dog must remain close and next to you.

Reaction to Distractions

- ▶ The evaluator explains what path to walk along.
- ▶ There will be two distractions, a visual one in front of your team and an auditory one behind your team.
- ▶ Your dog must walk on a loose lead with its attention on you.
- ▶ Your dog may express curiosity; if it startles, it should recover promptly.

Sit on Command

- ▶ The evaluator directs you to have your dog sit.
- ▶ You can use a verbal and/or hand signal to ask your dog to sit.
- ▶ Your dog should be able to remain sitting for 3 seconds until you release it.
- ▶ Your dog may be in front of you or to your side.

Down on Command

- ▶ The evaluator directs you to have your dog lie down.
- ▶ You can use a verbal and/or hand signal to ask your dog to lie down.
- ▶ Your dog should be able to remain down for 3 seconds until you release it.
- ▶ Your dog may be in front of you or to your side.

Stay in Place*

- ▶ The evaluator provides a 10-foot long line and asks you to attach it to your dog.
- ▶ You put your dog in a sit, down or stand (your choice).
- ▶ You cue your dog to stay.
- ▶ You walk 10 feet away and then turn to look back at your dog.
- ▶ You pause 3 seconds and then return to your dog.
- ▶ Your dog may change position but must stay.

Come When Called

- ▶ The long line is still attached to your dog.
- ▶ The evaluator distracts your dog by petting it.
- ▶ You walk 10 feet away, holding the long line.
- ▶ The evaluator cues you to call your dog.
- ▶ Your dog must return to you without distraction or delay.
- ▶ You reattach a standard leash and return the long line to the evaluator.

Reaction to a Neutral Dog

- ▶ Your team faces a neutral dog team at a distance of about 10 feet; both dogs are on the outside.
- ▶ Both teams approach each other, stop when you're an arm's length apart, so that you and the other handler can exchange a greeting, and then keep walking.
- ▶ The entire exercise lasts no more than 10 seconds.
- ▶ Your dog may not cross your midline.
- ▶ Your dog may not show aggression or excessive fear.

Aptitude Exercises for Dogs

Overall Examination*

- ▶ The evaluator makes eye contact with your dog and then exposes it to physical handling to assess its reaction to being touched in different areas; for example, the evaluator holds your dog's tail, looks in its ears, checks its teeth and handles its feet.
- ▶ Your dog must willingly accept handling.

Exuberant and Clumsy Petting*

- ▶ The evaluator simulates petting by someone with limited mobility and poor motor skills.
- ▶ The evaluator also uses a high-pitched or squeaky voice and makes strange noises while interacting with your dog.
- ▶ Your dog must willingly accept petting.

Restraining Hug*

- ▶ The evaluator makes eye contact with your dog and then leans over and gives it a full-body hug around the shoulders that restricts it for no more than 15 seconds.
- ▶ Your dog must willingly accept the hug.

Staggering and Gesturing Individual

- ▶ An assistant wearing a costume and using healthcare equipment staggers, gestures with the hands and moans until he or she is 6 feet from your team.
- ▶ The assistant stops, calls your team to approach and pets your dog.
- ▶ Your dog must willingly approach and accept petting.

Angry Yelling

- ▶ Two assistants begin yelling at each other approximately 6 feet away from your team. The yelling is not directed at your team.
- ▶ The assistants stop yelling and become neutral, and one assistant calls your team to approach.
- ▶ Your dog must willingly approach and accept interaction.

Bumped From Behind

- ▶ While your dog is otherwise distracted by interactions with the assistants, the evaluator comes up from behind and uses his or her leg to gently bump it.
- ▶ You acknowledge the bump and attend to your dog.
- ▶ Your dog may startle but should recover quickly.

Crowded and Petted by Several People*

- ▶ Three assistants approach, one at a time, and begin touching your dog, until all three are gathered closely around, attempting to attract your dog's attention.
- ▶ One assistant will be using healthcare equipment to approach your team.
- ▶ You proactively manage the crowd.
- ▶ Your dog must willingly accept petting.

Leave It

- ▶ The evaluator explains what path to walk along.
- ▶ The path will take your team past a toy on the ground, and your dog will pass within 18 to 24 inches of the toy.
- ▶ Your dog may not pick up or mouth the toy, though some sniffing is acceptable.

Offered a Treat

- ▶ The evaluator walks toward your team with a treat in hand, saying, "May I give your dog a treat?"
- ▶ You get to decide whether your dog may have the treat.
- ▶ If you allow the treat to be taken, you direct the evaluator how best to offer the treat; your dog must take the treat gently.

Overall Handler Assessment*

- ▶ The evaluator makes an overall assessment of your handler skills, as demonstrated throughout the evaluation.
- ▶ Did you use PETS? Did you advocate for your dog? Did you guide interactions? Did you have appropriate social interactions?

** Indicates exercises used to determine a Complex team qualification rating*