



Comfort Dogs
2020-2021

Therapy Dog Evaluation Criteria



<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Accept greeting from friendly stranger Évaluator will approach handler and dog and exchange pleasantries. Dog should not show any signs of shyness, hesitation, or avoidance.</p>
	<p>Accepting Petting Evaluator will ask to pet your dog. Handler will be evaluated in facilitating proper greeting between people and their dog. Dog should be under control and handler should be demonstrating the GO SEE protocol. Dog does not have to sit but they may not jump up during greeting.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Handler dog handling Throughout the evaluation, handler is evaluated for handling/guiding/working with their dog in a mutually positive, effective, and gentle way Handler and is relaxed and comfortable in giving guidance to their dog.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Health and grooming Évaluator will inspect to see if dog is healthy and clean. Look for weight, grooming issues, or other health concerns (arthritis, skin conditions, etc.).</p> <p>Dog is clean, appears healthy weight, no physical conditions noted affecting dog's behavior, temperament, or ability to navigate a therapy dog visit that could stress the dog</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Evaluator dog handling Évaluator will handle dog in a thorough way. Evaluator will pet dog, pick up paws, handle dog's ears, look into dog's eyes, gently touch tail, and pet dog on top of head.</p> <p>Dog happily engages with evaluator and is relaxed and comfortable with handling.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Enthusiastic and clumsy petting Évaluator will pet dog in a clumsy and enthusiastic manner. Pat head, pull ears, lean over dog, hug dog tightly, thrust face in dog's face. Handler should help dog feel comfortable and give guidance on how evaluator can interact with dog to benefit the interaction for all.</p> <p>Dog happily engages with evaluator and is relaxed and comfortable with handling</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Individual with a piece of medical equipment and disguise Évaluator will wear a hat or other disguise (wig, mask) and approach dog unsteadily using a piece of medical equipment while speaking and gesturing to dog. Attempt to pet dog. Handler should help dog feel comfortable.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Loose Leash Walking Handler will demonstrate control of the dog while walking on leash. Leash can not be held tightly to control the dog.</p> <p>Dog walks nicely on leash with the majority of the walking on a loose leash.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Walk through a crowded space+ Distractions Handler will walk dog through a small space with distractions present. The dog may show slight interest in the distractions but should continue to walk with handler unconcerned. Dog should not strain on leash.</p>

Therapy Dog Evaluation Criteria Continued



<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Sit and Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Handler will ask dog to demonstrate a Sit. Handler will ask dog to demonstrate a Down. <p>Dog Sits and Downs on the first or second verbal prompt/hand signal</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Stay and Recall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Handler asks dog to Stay in a down position, walks to the end of the leash, and calls dog to come. <p>Dogs stays in position without being corrected and comes directly to the handler the first time they are called</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Dog-Dog Interactions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Handler demonstrates awareness to dogs potential response and helps the dog to feel confident and successful in the presence of another dog. <p>Handler and dog will show appropriate behavior in the presence of another dog. Dog may show friendly interest, but must not strain on the leash towards the other dog and be able to be called away from approaching other dog when handler asks. Any growling, lunging, excessive barking, etc. will result in the dog not passing.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Distraction/Startle Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Evaluator will drop clipboard behind dog (not closer than three feet away). <p>Dog has a minimal startle response and recovers. Handler properly assists the dog in recovery.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Leave it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Evaluator will leave a toy and treat on floor while dog walks past items, handler must remain in control. <p>Dog leaves items alone with minimal verbal prompts from the handler</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Take treats gently</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Evaluator will offer a small treat to the dog. The handler should direct the proper way to give a dog a treat (open hand, toss, etc.) <p>The dog should not take the treat until directed by the owner and should take the treat gently.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Owner attitude/sensibility/grooming/attire/cooperation/friendliness/gentleness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Handler is warm friendly and cooperative when facilitation interactions
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Response to Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Evaluator will simulate auditory or visual distractions similar to ones dog will encounter in a school. The dog can show interest but should not be overly aroused or react. <p>Dog is curious but has minimal response and fast recovery</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Role-Play Activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Evaluator will simulate a therapy dog visit with an individual. <p>Handler has a good understanding of Comfort Dog rules and procedures and demonstrates proactive handling techniques and animal advocacy</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Resource Guarding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Evaluator will give the dog a toy or bone. The handler will be asked to take the item from the dog without warning or command. The dog should give up the item . <p>IF THE DOG GROWLS-SNAPS-MOUTHS or shows any aggressive resource guarding behavior the dog will be not be allowed to continue in the Comfort Dog program.</p>