

TEST 7 - REACTION TO UNUSUAL FOOTING

OBJECTIVE: To measure the dog's reaction to unusual footing.

PROCEDURE:

7) GRATE FOOTING: The handler-dog team both walk over a 15 foot x 4 foot length of 9 gauge chain link fencing laid flat on even ground. The fencing is weighted and both ends are secured along the edges.

TEST 8, 9, 10 - SELF PROTECTIVENESS/AGGRESSIVE REACTION

OBJECTIVE: To test the dog's capacity to focus (a) on an unusual stimulus, (b) to recognize a threat, and (c) to react in the face of a threat.

PROCEDURE: The dog must wear a sturdy choke collar and a strong lead. The unfriendly stranger is dressed in odd clothing.

8) RECOGNIZES STIMULUS: As the team comes to within 30 feet of the well-hidden assistant, the unfriendly stranger emerges from his hiding place making unusual sounds and motions. The unfriendly stranger crosses the path of the team.

9) RECOGNIZES THREAT: The unfriendly stranger turns toward the team raising his riding crop, continues the unusual noises and motions and advances to a distance of 20 feet.

10) DOG IS THREATENED: The unfriendly stranger than pounds his riding crop six times on the ground as he advances to within ten feet of the team. He waits five seconds and then turns and flees.

It takes about ten minutes for the team to move through the ten test stations. At the conclusion of the test, each handler will receive a verbal critique on the dog's test performance. A test is failed if the dog at any time shows extreme avoidance, hides behind the handler or panics, shows aggressiveness when not provoked, or exhibits obvious avoidance on the footing test. At any of the tests, the dog may startle, but it is the recovery time that we are interested in.

If the dog passes all of the sub tests, it will receive a certificate, on the day of the test, with a Temperament Test number.

Cost: Pre Entry - \$35/dog; Day of Test - \$40/dog

Location: Exhibition Grounds; Truro, NS

To register contact:

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NOVA SCOTIA GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG CLUB



The NSGSDC is pleased to host a Temperament Test conducted by

Temperament Test Associates Inc.

Cobequid Dog Show - October 11, 2014

Now the serious breeder, exhibitor, and fancier is able to evaluate each dog's temperament, and to list the TT (if earned) behind the dog's name.

The TT is designed for dogs at least 12 months of age. The method of administration is concise and complete using three evaluators and following simple but logical guidelines.

The temperament evaluations show a dog's reaction to his environment. No matter what breed, a dog either has good temperament or it does not; however, all breeds of dogs do show a different disposition as part of the characteristics of that particular breed. Temperament is a dog's characteristic or habitual inclination or mode of emotional response.

To register, contact Wendy Clark at
wendyl.clark@gmail.com

(Please note, no refunds available)

THE TEMPERAMENT TEST

The Temperament Test is designed for dogs at least 12 months of age. Three evaluators measure the dog's strength of response at each of the ten sub tests.

All officials conducting the evaluation are schooled centrally and registered with the Temperament Test Associates. Procedure and equipment are standardized in uniform fairness to each dog participating.

Just prior to the test beginning, the Chief Tester gives an introduction to the test and then walks with all test participants through all of the course test stations, explaining step by step the stimuli that will be presented and the various reactions a dog may show, how to handle your dog in a positive way, and what the handler must avoid during the test. At that time, any pertinent questions may be asked.

During the test, dogs are on a six foot loose lead. They may not be under any kind of command or attempted influence by the handler.

The character and/or disposition of all breeds of dogs varies depending on what they were meant to be used for (ie herding, sledding, hunting, working, or guarding); however, **GOOD TEMPERAMENT IS GOOD TEMPERAMENT, and BAD TEMPERAMENT IS BAD TEMPERAMENT - IN ANY DOG OF ANY BREED.** In these evaluations, all dogs are judged according to their age, breed, and socialization (ie house dog, kennel dog, working in conformation, tracking, obedience, or schutzhund).

The owner of each dog passing the requirements will receive a certificate with the dog's name and breed designation. The dog's name may now be listed with the letters TT after the dog's name. A central registry will record all breeds and individual dogs passing these tests. These records will be available to National and Regional breed clubs.

THE TEN SUB TESTS

TEST 1, 2, 3 - BEHAVIOUR TOWARD STRANGERS

OBJECTIVE: To determine the dog's reaction to strangers in a non-threatening situation.

PROCEDURE:

- 1) **NEUTRAL STRANGER:** A stranger to the dog approaches the handler, shakes hands and ignores the dog for ten seconds.
- 2) **FRIENDLY STRANGER:** A stranger to the dog approaches happily and briskly and is exuberantly friendly to the dog. Petting for ten seconds.
- 3) **CROWD:** Approximately eight people come from many directions and walk toward the dog and handler to create a circle around the team. The diameter of the circle is not to be less than eight feet.

TEST 4, 5 - REACTION TO ACOUSTIC STIMULI

OBJECTIVE: To test the dog's reaction to two acoustic stimuli, and to measure the dog's investigative behaviour. This test shows alertness and curiosity.

PROCEDURE:

- 4) **HIDDEN CLATTERING:** As the dog and handler approach the well-hidden assistant, the assistant begins to rattle a galvanized metal bucket filled with marbles. The dog should investigate, otherwise the handler may encourage the dog. The handler's focus must be on the stimulus, not on the dog.
- 5) **GUN TEST:** Dog and handler have their backs turned to the unnoticed and well-hidden assistant. Team and assistant are 15 feet apart. With the extra loud .22 starter pistol, the assistant fires three shots in the air: shot, pause, shot, shot. If the dog turns towards the sound, the handler may follow up to ten feet.

TEST 6 - REACTION TO A VISUAL STIMULUS

OBJECTIVE: To test the dog's reaction to a sudden visual stimulus. To measure the dog's investigative behaviour and the startle-recovery time.

PROCEDURE:

- 6) **UMBRELLA TEST:** The handler-dog team proceeds toward the assistant who sits relaxed and motionless in a lawn chair holding a large, black, spring-loaded self-opening umbrella horizontally in a closed position at a 90° angle to the path of the approaching team. The assistant sits looking straight ahead showing no challenging behaviour as the team approaches to his right side. When the dog is five feet from the umbrella, the catch on the umbrella is suddenly but smoothly released so that the umbrella will open at a 90° angle to the path of the dog. Then the umbrella is at once smoothly lowered to the ground, coming to rest on its side and held by the assistant at its handle. The dog should investigate the umbrella within 15 seconds; otherwise, the handler may encourage the dog for 15 seconds to approach the umbrella.