Testers: How to be a super-duper TC test station volunteer

Overall Guidelines

- Make sure you understand what your station tests for and what your actions should be.

- Ask questions of the evaluator during the training before the Temperament Test (TC) begins.

- To ensure a fair test across all dogs, make sure to perform your part of the test the same way each time.

- No food or doggie treats on your person while at your station. The dogs will know. 😊

Taking care of our test volunteers

- We'll have volunteers to help take care of the TC volunteers. We'll provide plenty of water and shade where possible.

- Stay hydrated. Signal if you need water.

- We'll provide breaks for volunteers to consume snacks at the steward's station if needed.

- Bring and use sunscreen or protective clothing.

- Let the steward know if you need a break for any reason.

STATION 1: BEHAVIOR TOWARD STRANGERS

Evaluator observes dog's reaction to strangers in non-threatening situations.

Neutral stranger

In a simulation of a typical street situation, you'll play the role of a neutral stranger.

1. As the handler and dog approach, greet the handler only. Don't look at or talk to the dog.

2. Have a short conversation with the handler.

3. Don't make physical contact with the handler or dog.

Friendly stranger

In a simulation of a typical street situation, you'll play the role of a friendly stranger.

1. As the handler and dog approach, greet the handler and dog in a friendly manner.

2. Have a short conversation with the handler.

3. Pet the dog and shake hands with the handler.

STATION 2: REACTION TO AURAL STIMULI (NOISE)

Evaluator observes dog's alertness to aural stimuli and degree of startle recovery and investigative behavior.

Can-rattling

You'll sit behind a blind so the approaching dog cannot see you.

1. When signaled by the evaluator, begin shaking the can vigorously.

2. When the dog comes around the blind and sees you, immediately stop shaking the can and hold the can still.

3. Allow the dog to make contact with the can.

Clapper

Behind the dog's back, the tester will clap the clapper to simulate the sound of a gunshot.

1. Wait for the dog and handler to reach the designated spot about 15 feet beyond where you're positioned.

2. They will stop with their backs to you.

3. When signaled by the evaluator, clap the clapper.

STATION 3: REACTION TO VISUAL STIMULI

Evaluator observes dog's reaction to sudden visual stimuli and degree of startle recovery and investigative behavior.

Umbrella test

You'll be sitting in a low chair and your job is to suddenly open an umbrella. Your chair will be directly in the dog's path but facing 90 degrees to the side.

1. When the approaching dog is 9 feet from the tip of the umbrella, raise the tip and point it at the dog.

2. When the dog is about 3 feet from the tip of the umbrella (no closer), open it directly toward the dog.

3. Then lower the open umbrella, rest it on the ground, and hold it still.

4. Allow the dog to make contact with the umbrella.

STATION 5: PROTECTIVE RESPONSE / WEIRD STRANGER

Evaluator observes dog's capacity to recognize a potential threat and react in an appropriate manner.

Appearance	Approach	Threat
1. As the dog and handler reach the designated position on the path, stagger into the dog's view. 2. Stop and turn toward the dog.	1. Then slowly advance toward the dog to the designated spot and stop.	1. If the dog shows a positive response, become threatening, using gestures and body language. 2. You can utter guttural sounds, but do not speak words or yell at the dog or handler.