



Testing Criteria

Part 1: Behavior Evaluation	Dog Readiness Items	Handler Readiness Items
Sociability	<p>Dog willingly interacts with stranger (shows no fear, resentment or lack of confidence). Dog should show interest in visiting without handler forcing the dog towards person. Dog should not show any stress signals. Visiting should be rewarding for the dog and the dog should visit in a calm manner.</p>	
Handling Assessment	<p>Dog allows paws to be handled, ears to be touched and tail to be gently tugged without shutting down or showing any type of aggression. Dog will allow petting from behind and overhead. Dog should be able to handle petting that may or may not be appropriate.</p>	<p>The handler places self in a position near to the dog and remains close to the dog. The handler keeps a hand lightly on the dog while the dog is being handled by the other person. The handler keeps his/her gaze on the dog more than on the person doing the handling to assess reaction of the dog. The handler respectfully sets limits on the person's handling as needed to protect the dog.</p>
Ability to Cope with Unpredictability	<p>Dog's response to loud noises and unpredictable movements will be assessed. Dog should recover very quickly. Dog should not shut down or show any signs of stress when unexpected things happen. Recovery at most should take 10-15 seconds.</p>	<p>The handler recognizes that distractions can affect the dog by checking the dog's reaction to any distractions visually and/or verbally.</p>
Reaction to Another Dog	<p>Dog should be able to continue visiting and/or move about facility with other dogs present. Dog should remain under control of handler and NOT interact with any dog. Dog should not pull, bark, or engage with other dogs in any way.</p>	
Hug/Restraint	<p>Dog is hugged using vet restraint method. Acceptable responses are dog leans into hug or dog remains neutral. Dog is disqualified for snapping or growling.</p>	<p>The handler places self in a position near to the dog and remains close to the dog. The handler keeps a hand lightly on the dog while the dog is being handled by the other person. The handler keeps his/her gaze on the dog more than on the person doing the handling to assess reaction of the dog.</p>



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Part 2: Obedience Criteria (*no treats can be used)	Dog Readiness Items	Handler Readiness Items
Sit or Down on Cue	Dog will sit on cue or down on cue with other dogs present with a 3ft. distance between them. Up to 3 other teams will be present during this exercise.	
Stay	Dog can remain in a sit or down until released from position with other dogs at a 3ft. distance while owner moves to end of 6ft. leash	
Walk on Loose Leash	Handler is always in control of dog. Leash is loose and dog follows verbal prompts when necessary.	The handler should observe that the dog is in position or places the dog in a ready position before starting to walk. The handler praises the dog during the walk and at the end of the walk verbally and/or physically.
Leave-It	Various items are placed on ground as well as in a person's hand, the dog may show interest, but must leave-it when cued. Leash prompt cannot be used.	
Come When Called	Dog will be held at a distance of 6ft. and should return to owner when cued. Dog should be comfortable with being away from owner when owner is in sight.	
Teamwork	At all times during evaluation for suitability the handler is able to control the dog's interactions using cues and praise. No treats, leash prompts, training collars or harnesses are used.	The handler uses conversational tone with the dog in voice and hand signals. The handler also praises the dog verbally and looks at the dog to see how the dog is doing and is not solely focused on what s/he as the handler is supposed to be doing next.



Testing Criteria

Part 3: Visiting Skills	Dog Readiness Items	Handler Readiness Items
Wait at Door	Dog will wait patiently at doorway of patients' room while handler asks if they would like a visit.	The handler places the dog in a position of self-control (sit/down/stand stay) before greeting person.
Checking In	Dog is either sitting or standing patiently upon check-in at facility. Handler should be able to complete sign-in without dog jumping up onto counter or trying to visit with other staff.	The handler places the dog in a position of self-control (sit/down/stand stay) before dealing with registration process and retains control of the leash. The handler and dog wait patiently to be acknowledged without causing a disruption. The handler arrives plenty of time in advance of scheduled visit/test time.
Positioning	Dog is able to be positioned in order to allow patient easy access to petting. Dog will be tested with wheelchair patient, walker patient, person sitting on floor, a person on crutches and person in bed. Depending on size of dog positioning may vary, however dog should remain calm and engaged in all circumstances.	
Grooming	Dog should be clean, freshly brushed and nails short in length.	
Handler		The handler should be able to recognize stress signals in dog and help facilitate appropriate petting with person. The handler should respond to the dog's needs at all times. The handler should glance at the dog several times during the interaction with other people, during obedience skills and while checking in. The handler should keep a hand lightly on the dog during all skills. The handler should also have a tidy appearance and be wearing appropriate footwear.
Written Handler Test		This test will determine if the handler has read and understood all of the instructions provided both in class and on the handouts. The pass rate is 80% and scoring below 80% will result in having to retest at a later date.