

Responsibility & Care

There will be either a written or an oral test consisting of eight questions, The handler must answer six out of the eight questions correctly.

Public cleanliness & identification

The handler must produce to the assessor some form of 'poop scoop' (e.g. plastic bags).

Excluding electronic prong or odour emitting types, all dogs must wear some form of correctly fitted restraint (e.g. flat collar, slip chain, head collar, body harness).

A current identification/registration tag issued by a Local Authority, specific to the dog wearing it, must be attached to the dog.

Examination of Dog by Handler

The dog may be standing, sitting or lying down (handler's choice).

Other than mild avoidance, the dog should allow inspection by its handler.

The handler is to examine the dogs: ▪ mouth and teeth by pulling back the lips ▪ ears

▪ front and hind paws (including the pads) ▪ eyes ▪ tail/hind quarters

Grooming & inspection of the Dog by Assessor

The handler to supply the comb or brush commonly used on the dog.

If it is a small dog, it may be placed on a table for inspection and grooming, but only with the handler's permission. The dog must be safe and comfortable being on the table.

The assessor shall handle and examine the dogs: ▪ mouth by pulling back the lips to expose the teeth ▪ front paws

▪ hind paws ▪ ears ▪ tail/hind quarters

Person Eating

The person eating is to be seated while some of the food remains visible on their lap.

The dog should remain in position directed by the handler while the person eats.

While the handler holds the dog on lead, the person is to eat some of the human food no further than one and a half metres from the dog (i.e. the assessor should be satisfied that the dog has been taken close enough to be aware that the person is eating).

Dog Eating

The dog is given a command to remain still (sit, stand or down – handler’s choice).

In the dog’s vicinity, handler to put a reasonable portion of the dog’s usual food (to be provided by the handler) into the bowl. There should be sufficient food available to allow the handler time to conduct this exercise.

The handler is then to place the bowl on the ground, no closer than half a metre and no further than one metre in front of the dog. If necessary, the handler is permitted additional voice “wait” or “leave it” commands while putting the food on the ground and to keep the dog in a staying position. Handler returns to stand beside the dog.

There will be approximately a five second pause, at which time the handler may release the dog to eat the food.

Accepting a Friendly Stranger

The dog will allow its handler and a friendly stranger to approach and interact with each other, without concern.

The dog to walk on lead, remaining by the side of the handler.

The handler/stranger will: Walk towards each other. Halt approximately 1 metre apart; greet each other in a friendly manner and hold a conversation for at least 30 seconds.

Shake hands at the end of the conversation. Resume on their way, with the dog walking beside its handler.

Accepting being patted by a Friendly Stranger

The dog can accept being patted by a friendly stranger, who shall be a different person to the one that was used in Exercise 3.

The dog to walk on lead, remaining by the side of the handler. The handler and stranger will: Walk towards each other. Halt a comfortable speaking distance apart. Greet each other in a friendly manner and hold a short conversation for at least 30 seconds.

THEN The stranger will ask if they may pat the dog: After giving permission, the handler is to explain how they would like their dog to be patted. Stranger will pat the dog, following the handler's instructions.

Walk on lead through a door/gate in a controlled manner

The dog does not push, pull, or impede the handler in any way, while going through a door/gate. The handler and dog are to: Approach a closed door or gate. Open the door or gate while the dog waits politely. Pause with the door or gate wide open before proceeding through and invite the dog to follow. Close the door or gate behind them, keeping the dog calm and controlled throughout.

THEN Walk a short distance beyond gate to collect a bag containing bulky articles (represents collecting shopping or carrying small suitcase). Repeat the process above to return through the door or gate with bag. Close the door or gate behind them the second time and walk away for at least another 6 paces in an orderly manner on a loose lead.

Restrained return to Handler

To determine the dog's temperament and willingness to accept being held by the collar and subsequent return to its handler immediately when called while dog is off the lead.

Handler is to: Leave the dog with Assessor who shall be holding the dog's collar in an unobtrusive manner. Walk away from the dog and stop at least 10 paces from the dog, turn and face their dog. Upon being requested to do so, call their dog to them. Attach the lead to the dog and walk away for at least another 6 paces in an orderly manner.

Walk on a Lead

Dog can walk beside handler in a calm and mannerly way without pulling. The handler will be directed where to walk with their dog using placement of cones, signs and/or verbal instructions.

The route walked will include a minimum of: – One Right turn – One Left turn – One About turn – At least one stop while on the walk – A stop at the end.

Controlled walk- through people & distractions

Demonstrates that the dog can move about in pedestrian traffic in a calm manner and can cope with any unexpected distractions that it may encounter. The dog and handler will be asked to undertake a short loose lead walk while negotiating at least pedestrian traffic as well as 2 additional distractions. These should be encountered in a similar fashion for each dog on the day.

Distractions must include: Pedestrian traffic. A loud or sudden noise element. A moving element. Startling distractions will be presented more than 2 metres from the dog.

Stay tied on a Lead

To show that the dog can be tied up and remain calm and accepting while the handler is a short distance away. The dog is to be tied to a fixed object, at a sensible distance from other dogs that may also be tied up.

The handler may leave the dog in any position (e.g. sit, down or stand). The handler will be asked to leave the dog and move off at least 20 paces away, for a period of two minutes.

Handler is to converse with other people and may move around but must remain in sight of the dog for the entire time of two minutes.

Upon the handler's return, the handler is to untie the dog and walk the dog away for approximately six paces, in a controlled, calm manner.

Meeting a stranger & their Dog

To demonstrate that the dog can meet and behave quietly around an unfamiliar person and their dog. Handler and dog will be walking in a controlled manner towards another person and their dog - which will also be under control.

This person and their dog shall not be well known to the dog being tested. The two handlers will approach and stop no greater than 1 metre from each other, shake hands and exchange a pleasant conversation for not less than 30 seconds.

Upon indication from the assessor, the two handlers will shake hands again and continue in the original directions past each other. Both dogs will be expected to remain beside their respective handlers.

Supervised separation

To ascertain that the dog can be left with another person not well-known to it and will maintain its good manners while the handler goes out of sight. The handler and dog are to approach another person and/or settle their dog; hand the lead over and then walk out of sight of the dog.

The person holding the dog will remain approximately in the same place (i.e. no walking around).

Calming signals and additional instructions can be given to the dog, but the person holding is not to elicit play or excitement in any way. Handler is to remain out of sight for no more than four minutes, after which they will be instructed to return, thank the person, and then take the lead back.

Handler and dog are to walk quietly away.

Playing with the Dog

To show that the handler has control over the dog when it is excited by play (i.e. the handler can start and finish a game). When instructed to do so, the handler will commence to play with the dog.

Should a fetch game be chosen, the throw must not be excessive, and the dog must return immediately to the handler (either upon command or by its own choice). When instructed to do so, the handler will ask the dog to stop the play and, if a toy is used, give this up to the handler, either directly to hand or dropped on the ground.

After playing the handler is to hold the toy in a way that is clearly visible to the dog. The handler should re-attach the lead (if necessary) while the dog remains calm. This exercise may be done either on lead or off lead. The handler and dog are to walk quietly away at the end of the exercise.