



# THERAPEUTIC PAWS OF CANADA THERAPY DOG EVALUATION

Handler's name: _____	Team: _____		
Address: _____	Tel: _____		
Email: _____			
Dog's name: _____	Breed: _____	Age: _____	Spayed/Neutered: Y / N
Vac. Cert. valid until: _____		Verified by: _____	
Venue: _____			
Date: _____		Evaluator _____	
Fee collected: \$ _____ (cash / cheque)	Pick up bag in handler's pocket:	Y / N	

The team is under observation from the time it enters the test area. A clean tidy appearance is expected from both the handler and dog, as they will be the ambassadors for the program. A dog that relieves itself during the evaluation has failed. A dog displaying any signs of aggression to other dogs or humans (i.e. continuous barking, snarling, growling, lunging, showing teeth) has failed. A handler seen harshly correcting his dog is an automatic failure. A handler seen not following poop/scoop rule will fail.

During the evaluation and on all visits the dog must wear a flat buckle or snap collar and be on a 4' or 6' leather or nylon web leash. No promise collars, prong collars, harnesses, haltis or choke chains permitted. Dog must be a minimum of one year of age. The dog should always be close to the handler. At no time should the dog be allowed to extend the leash to the fullest. Handlers may talk to their dog and pet them in every category but may not use food to lure the dog during any of the categories. Dogs weighing 15 lbs. and under will have to do certain sections of the evaluation on the floor.

The Evaluator must watch the dog's face and head in **ALL** categories and should always be ready to quickly step in between the dog and others.

## INTRODUCING TEAM TO EVALUATOR

PASS \_\_\_\_\_ FAIL \_\_\_\_\_

#1 While the Evaluator is standing in the center of the evaluation area, with their back to the team, (wearing a white coat simulating a Doctor will be worn for this category) the team will approach quietly from behind and introduce themselves to the Evaluator. The dog must not jump on Evaluator but remain quiet (either standing or sitting) while the handler and Evaluator exchange a few pleasantries. This category demonstrates the handler's social skills.

The Evaluator will ask permission to examine the dog (handler's refusal is a failure). The Evaluator will examine the dog looking for a calm, stable attitude and good grooming. The Evaluator will pat the dog's head, gently fondle the ears and check for cleanliness, stroke the dog's body and tail, lift both front paws and check that nails are short and filed smooth. Small dogs that would normally be lifted up to visit and/or those normally carried weighing less than fifteen (15) pounds will be placed on a table for this examination.

At no time should the dog display shyness or resentment to being touched. A **slight leaning** away or movement away will not be taken as shyness as this is a natural tendency for some breeds. The Evaluator will not stare at the dog but should monitor the dog's reactions for signs of discomfort or distress at being handled. Any growling, snarling or cowering is a failure. A dog that is unduly stressed by the Evaluator touching him has failed. The Evaluator should stand at the side of the dog while lifting the paws. It is recommended that the Evaluator extend their arm across the front of the dog's chest to protect their face and neck while leaning over the dog.

## WALKING AS A THERAPY DOG

PASS \_\_\_\_\_ FAIL \_\_\_\_\_

#2 The Evaluator will demonstrate the specific "L" course for the team to walk. The pattern will include a right and left hand turn as well as an about turn with at least one stop in the middle and another at the end of the course. The dog must walk in a controlled mannerly fashion while on a loose leash. The handler may talk to his dog to encourage him to stay close. The dog does not have to sit at each stop but should stop and remain reasonably close to the handler. A plate of cookies (**not dog cookies**) is placed on a chair or floor (dependant on dogs size) to gauge the handler's control over the dog passing a "cookie trolley" in facilities. The handler must exhibit control over their dog without resorting to physical corrections.

## MILLING CROWD

PASS \_\_\_\_\_ FAIL \_\_\_\_\_

#3 The team moves about politely among the moving pedestrian traffic with the dog on a short leash. The handler may talk to his dog to encourage the dog to stay close and move smartly. The dog should display confidence and may show interest in the pedestrian movement but should not interfere with their movement. If the dog displays shyness, anxiety, pushes into the people or jumps up it shall fail. Dogs under 15 pounds will do this exercise twice, first on the floor, and second time in the handlers arms. The four pedestrians will stand in a designated numbered spot and each pedestrian will begin walking back and forth from their place through the center of the test area to the other side and return to their number while chatting or saying hello to each other. The team will walk in to the center each time before turning to the numbered spot called, then stand behind that number, until the next number is called as directed by the Evaluator. They will continue to do so until the Evaluator advises them to stop.

**Note: The Team will complete #4 and #5 when called up**

**PATIENTLY SITTING FOR PETTING**

**PASS \_\_\_\_\_ FAIL \_\_\_\_\_**

#4 With the dog in a standing or sitting position beside the handler the Evaluator will approach and ask, "May I pet your dog"? The Evaluator will **bend over** the dog to pet it (lightly tapping the head and hip area) and then walk around the team in a **tight circle** and return to the front. The dog should not show more than mild interest in the movement of the Evaluator. Any indication of aggression such as growling, lifting of the lip, jumping to a stand or spinning to follow the Evaluator is a failure.

**PRAISE/INTERACTION**

**PASS \_\_\_\_\_ FAIL \_\_\_\_\_**

#5 The dog should be easily calmed by the handler after a short play or praise period. The handler may use verbal praise, petting, playing with a toy and/or favourite trick in the allotted time frame and then calm the dog upon a signal from the Evaluator. Failure would occur if the dog ignores the handlers command and does not calm down but continues to demand that the playing continue. The Evaluator should be close enough to the team to observe the dog's face clearly, without interfering with the dog/handler interaction.

**Note:** The dog will not fail if it does not become excited as many dogs simply have a laid back attitude.

**REACTION TO OTHER DOGS**

**PASS \_\_\_\_\_ FAIL \_\_\_\_\_**

#6 A test area of **not less than eight (8) feet square in size** will be marked out with four numbers. Four handlers will approach a predetermined number with their dog on a **short** lead and have the dog sit on the handler's left side. The Evaluator will ask two teams opposite each other to walk forward – halt, have their dogs sit and shake hands then introduce themselves. The handlers are facing each other at arms length. Upon instruction from the Evaluator the teams will pass each other with dogs passing side by side to the numbered spot in front of them, turn and halt. The teams will take turns to greet each team present, as the other teams quietly watch. The handler may talk to his dog. The dog should move alongside his handler in a mannerly fashion. If a dog lunges, snaps, growls or displays any aggression to another dog or another handler it would fail. The Evaluator will closely monitor the interaction and should expect the team to be polite and courteous. A dog exhibiting friendly curiosity as other teams pass will not fail. Ensure that each handler & dog greets all handlers & dogs participating in the evaluation.

**Dog will complete #7, #8 and #9 when called up.**

**DOG VISITING STATIONARY CROWD**

**PASS \_\_\_\_\_ FAIL \_\_\_\_\_**

#7 A group of four to five people using canes, walkers or crutches form a circle. One person should wear a baseball hat. One of the crowd should be a child approximately 12 years of age (or an adult kneeling) holding a soft fuzzy toy under their arm/between their knees where the dog can easily get it. The "child" must not have any previous interaction with the dog or handler prior to this category so Evaluator can gauge the dog's initial response. The team will walk around inside the circle with the dog closest to the crowd. The people will touch and stroke the dog if the dog stops to visit. The team will complete the circle twice. Dogs less than 15 pounds may be carried on the second circuit and should also be closest to the people to allow petting. If the dog takes the fuzzy toy it must relinquish it immediately upon command of the handler or will fail the test. The person holding the fuzzy toy must not tease or tempt the dog to take the toy. (Helper to play a repeater and someone that doesn't like dogs)

#8 With the group still in the circle the team is asked to step away and turn their back to the circle. A volunteer that has not yet interacted with the teams puts on a dressing gown and will stand in place with head bowed staring at the floor, arms hanging and swaying slightly while mumbling. The team returns to the circle stopping 3 feet from the robed person, the evaluator will gauge the dogs reaction, if all is well the team are then instructed to move forward and greet the robed person. The dog may sit, stand or down. The Evaluator should be close to the dog's head and will monitor the dog's reaction for signs of stress and uneasiness for approximately 10 seconds. The Evaluator must be able to step in quickly between the dog and volunteer if necessary.

After the dog displays an appropriate reaction, advise the person in the robe to acknowledge and pet the dog. It is important that the dog doesn't have any prior interaction with this volunteer to accurately gauge his response.

#9 The team enters the center of the circle. The dog will sit beside handler facing the Evaluator. Upon a signal from the Evaluator the crowd will advance in unison with one arm stretched out and the fist closed. The crowd will call the dog's name and greet it in a friendly manner. If the handler deliberately blocks contact between the dog and any person in the circle this would be a failure.

The Evaluator will watch the dog for any signs of shyness, resentment or aggression and react quickly if the dog displays any of these traits and fail the dog.

**NOTE: The team will complete #10, #11, and #12 when called up .**

The Evaluator will explain the category to all participants and then ask them to wait outside the Evaluation room until they are called for their turn, one at a time. An assistant should wait with the participants who are outside the Evaluation room. The dog may be startled by the noise distractions and the excited child visitor but should regain composure. Any display of aggression or fear would be a failure.

**WHEELCHAIR VISIT AND DISTRACTIONS**

**PASS \_\_\_\_\_ FAIL \_\_\_\_\_**

#10 The handler will enter the room a get into position with back to the Evaluator. Sitting in a wheelchair the Evaluator will approach the sitting dog and handler from behind. The Handler may upon hearing the Evaluator speak should turn to face the approaching Evaluator. When approaching the team the Evaluator will use an excited manner and ask to pet the dog. A dog 15 pounds or less will be placed in the Evaluator's lap (handler will keep hold of leash) – refusal to place dog on the Evaluator's lap would be a failure. When evaluating a large breed, the evaluator will place their arm over the withers in a relaxed manner while gauging the dog for shyness, resentment or aggression that would result in a failure.

#11 The Evaluator will ask the handler if they may give the dog a treat – the handler's refusal would be a failure. The handler may supply the dog treat and tell their dog to take it gently. The Evaluator will **firmly hold** the treat while offering it to the dog to ensure the dog takes it gently and displays patience. The dog may refuse the treat – this refusal IS NOT A FAILURE. If the dog snaps or lunges for the treat it would be considered a failure.

#12 While the Evaluator is in the wheelchair petting the dog

- a/ another assistant will **drop** one of the following approximately six feet behind the Evaluator –
  - bag of empty cans (assorted sizes for optimum noise)
  - stainless steel bowl
  - push over a chair (folding metal preferred)
- b/ the evaluator will put their finger through the dog's collar as a precaution while a child or assistant acting like an excited child **runs** up to Evaluator **but on the opposite side that dog is sitting** and **excitedly** tell them of something wonderful they just saw. Runner should be within dog's range of sight. The Evaluator should be prepared to restrain a small dog on their lap from possibly jumping at the child. The Evaluator should be watching the dog's face closely for its reaction. The dog should show interest and mild excitement but any lunging, jumping towards child or any signs of aggression would be a failure. Dog should then be allowed to visit this person to end on a positive note.

Congratulate the successful teams and invite the Team Leader to address the group and distribute the appropriate forms.