

Canine Life and Social Skills™

Ph.D. for Dogs™

Test Descriptions and Real-Life Relevance



1. LOOSE LEASH WALKING	<p>Student holds an unsteady object in their hand while walking with their dog for 15 feet and enters through a door.</p> <p><i>Loose leash walking is helpful when you need to safely carry an object while walking your dog. (See "15 Uses for Walking Without Pulling" at www.trainyourdogmonth.com/tips/15UsesLLW.aspx.)</i></p>
2. BACK UP	<p>A. Student holds an unsteady object in their hand while walking with their dog to maneuver around household items.</p> <p>B. Student asks their dog to back up 3 feet.</p> <p><i>Back Up can be a useful skill when you want your dog to move away from you or back up with you.</i></p>
3. STAY	<p>Student asks their dog to stay, in a sit or down, while student places an unsteady object on a chair.</p> <p><i>Stay is useful when you need your dog to remain in place amid distractions. (See "20 Uses for Wait or Stay" at www.trainyourdogmonth.com/tips/20UsesWaitStay.aspx.)</i></p>
WARM-UP TIME	<p>Dog and student are allowed up to 5 minutes to explore and acclimate to the testing area.</p> <p><i>A dog is better able to focus and relax when he has a chance to assess his immediate environment.</i></p>
4. COME AND LEASHING UP MANNERS	<p>A. Student calls their dog to come from 20 feet away and pass by distractions placed between the dog and student.</p> <p>B. Student asks their dog to sit or down, and attaches leash and detaches long line before releasing the dog.</p> <p><i>Coming when called and leaving distractions could save your dog's life if he gets loose. (See "15 Uses for Coming When Called" at www.trainyourdogmonth.com/tips/15UsesCome.aspx.)</i></p>
5. MEET AND GREET	<p>A. Student asks their dog to sit or down, and an unfamiliar person approaches student and dog.</p> <p>B. Person greets dog and gently pets dog's head, ears, and back.</p> <p><i>When you take your dog to a veterinarian, groomer, or other similar place, it is important that your dog allows being handled.</i></p>
6. ATTENTION	<p>Student asks their dog for 15 seconds of eye contact after an unfamiliar person knocks on the door and enters the testing area.</p> <p><i>When you have your dog's attention, you can help him focus and give him other guidance.</i></p>
7. TABLE MANNERS	<p>Student asks their dog to settle in a down while student and an unfamiliar person sit at a table for a snack for 30 seconds.</p> <p><i>A dog who can calm down on cue around food is more manageable in the home and may be more welcome in other social settings. (See www.trainyourdogmonth.com/tips/25UsesDown.aspx for "25 Uses for Down".)</i></p>
8. DO YOU REALLY KNOW SIT?	<p>Student asks their dog to sit 3 separate times, varying the student's body position each time.</p> <p><i>This test helps students assess if their dog understands familiar instructions in unusual and distracting settings. (See "25 Uses for Sit" at www.trainyourdogmonth.com/tips/25UsesSit.aspx.)</i></p>
★ BONUS 1: DO YOU REALLY KNOW SIT?	<p>Student asks their dog to sit using 2 additional Sit Test Variations.</p> <p><i>Students may need to cue their dog to sit in unusual and distracting settings.</i></p>
★ BONUS 2: TARGETING WITH AN UNFAMILIAR PERSON	<p>Dog uses his nose to touch each of the Evaluator's hands, held with palms facing dog, on cue from either the student or the Evaluator.</p> <p><i>This bonus demonstrates that the dog not only knows the target cue, but has generalized the cue to other people. A dog who has learned to target a person's hand is less likely to jump up on them or shy away from the hand.</i></p>