# **ATT Evaluator Guide**



March 4, 2022

# **AKC Temperament Test (ATT)**

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# **PART I: What is the AKC Temperament Test?**

Have you noticed that some breeds of dogs are friendly, some are independent, and others may be somewhat reserved with strangers? These are all characteristics of temperament.

# The AKC Temperament Test, the ATT, is a temperament test designed for all breeds.

The ATT, a pass-fail noncompetitive test, assesses the reaction of any breed to stimuli in the surrounding world. In the ATT, dogs are tested on the following six categories: Social, Auditory, Visual, Tactile (touch), Proprioceptive (motion) and an Unexpected Stimulus.

The ATT screens for fear, shyness, inability to recover, and lack of cooperation. Desired traits are that the dog will be emotionally stable, cooperative, inquisitive, appropriately social for its breed, and biddable.

All dogs who pass the ATT twice under two different approved ATT Evaluators may earn the AKC Temperament Test title.

The ATT is administered by AKC licensed or member clubs. The ATT may be held in conjunction with another AKC event such as a dog show or trial or as a stand alone (AKC club) event.

# Why take the AKC Temperament Test?

For purebred dogs, each breed's parent club has a written breed standard that includes information on the breed's temperament. Taking the ATT allows dog owners to determine how close their individual dog's temperament is to the breed standard. For the owners of mixed breed dogs, the ATT may provide insight on the temperament of individual dogs.

The ATT provides information about a dog's reactions to a variety of stimuli. ATT testing can identify behaviors related to temperament that can be addressed through training.

# **Checklist for planning an ATT**

Additional details for planning an ATT are located at <a href="https://www.akc.org/akctemptest/">www.akc.org/akctemptest/</a>

The general steps for planning an ATT are:

- Identify an Evaluator. This may be a specially trained AKC Obedience judge, AKC
  Rally judge, or a CGC Evaluator. All must have completed the required training
  modules and passed the ATT online test.
- Assemble ATT materials (teeter, whistle, etc.) (Club or Evaluator).
- Decide on a place, time, number of dogs
- **Submit an AKC Event application.** This is done by the club.
- List in premium list if the ATT is at a show or trial. Specify fee and if sign-ups may be done at the event. If the ATT is held at a stand alone event (e.g., club graduation night), the club will determine how participants will be notified.
- Download forms for dogs to be tested. This may be done by the club or Evaluator.
  - ATT Title Application
  - ATT Evaluator Score Sheets
  - "Your Breed's Temperament" form (owner fills out at test)
  - Breed Temperament Guide (to have at registration table and/or on a poster)
- Test Summary Form must be completed by the Evaluator within 7 days to close out the event and issue titles. This online form can be accessed at www.akc.org/akctemptest

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# Age of dogs

Dogs must be at least 1 year of age to participate in the AKC Temperament Test.

#### Aggression

For any signs of aggression including biting, snapping at, or snarling during the ATT, the dog should be dismissed immediately. If a dog bites an Evaluator or steward in the ring, the Evaluator will complete the "DQ by Judge" official AKC form. If a dog bites another person outside of the ring, a "DQ by Committee" form should be completed.

# **Barking (and whining)**

It is up to the discretion of the Evaluator to determine if barking should be penalized. Barking should not be excessive, nor should it appear to be related to aggression (e.g., lunging and barking at the Unexpected Stimulus person). There should be no excessive whining in the test.

## Bitches in season

Bitches in season may be tested as the last dog(s) at the end of the day.

#### **Bites**

See Aggression.

# **Breed temperament information**

One purpose of the ATT is to educate dog owners about the temperament of their breeds. At each test, in addition to an ATT Title Application form and their contact information on the Evaluator's Score Sheet, handlers complete the form labeled, "Your Breed's Temperament." The form includes a space for the handlers of purebred dogs to write about the temperament of their breeds based on the breed standard. There is also a space for handlers of mixed breed dogs to write about the temperament of their individual dogs.

Clubs should print the Breed Temperament Guide (<u>www.akc.org/akctemptest</u>) and have copies on the registration table and/or a poster.

When the handler enters the ring with his or her paperwork, the Evaluator may say something such as, "I see you have your breed information here...you have a Clumber Spaniel...tell me about the temperament of your breed." Evaluators should keep in mind that handlers are likely to be nervous, so the Evaluator should hold the form so the handler can see it to read the information if necessary. Or, it is also acceptable for Evaluators to read what the handler has written, and say something such as, "Does this sound like your breed?" (owner responds) Then the Evaluator might say, "I'm looking forward to seeing your dog work."

## **Clickers**

While we recognize that clickers may be valuable training tools, they are not permitted in the ATT.

## Collars, harnesses, leashes

Dogs may wear slip collars that are on the dead ring, buckle collars, Martingales and body harnesses in the ATT. They may not wear prong collars, e-collars, head collars, or harnesses that restrict the movement of the dog.

Leashes should be 4 ft. to 6 ft. long and should be made of fabric or leather.

# **Conduct of Evaluators**

Evaluators in the ATT should be professional at all times. This applies to dress, demeanor, and the manner in which information is communicated to handlers.

#### Conflict of interest

Evaluators may not judge their own dogs or dogs who live in their households. This would be a conflict of interest.

#### **Corrections**

In the ATT, handlers may talk to their dogs, but not excessively. There should be no verbal or leash corrections. Depending on the severity of the correction, the Evaluator may give the handler a reminder or may dismiss the handler.

# **Course design (see Layout)**

#### Date conflicts

There are no restrictions pertaining to date conflicts with other events. (This means that more than one club may hold an ATT on the same day).

## **Disabilities**

Handlers: Accommodations should be made for handlers with disabilities in the ATT.

Examples include moving equipment to make space for a wheelchair between test items, or permitting someone with visual disabilities to have someone guide them from obstacle to obstacle.

# Dogs: Dogs with disabilities may participate in the ATT test.

However, if a dog has multiple disabilities (e.g., blind and deaf), such that it is unable to perform more than one whole category of the test (such as auditory stimuli and visual stimuli), the dog will not earn the ATT title. If the dog has one disability (e.g., deaf), it may be tested. The Evaluator would not score the Auditory section of the score sheet. "Deaf" would be written on the score sheet and the dog would not earn a zero. This would mean if all other categories (Social, Visual, etc.) were passed, the dog would pass the test.

# Eligibility

**Clubs:** AKC licensed and member clubs are eligible to hold the ATT.

**Dogs:** Dogs who are at least 1 year of age are eligible to take the ATT as long as they are registered or enrolled with AKC and have an AKC, PAL or AKC Canine Partners number.

# **Evaluators/Judges**

The Evaluators for the ATT are AKC Obedience judges, AKC Rally judges, or AKC Approved CGC Evaluators who have completed the required ATT training modules and passed the online test. The person who conducts the ATT testing is referred to as the "Evaluator." The assistants in the ATT are referred to as "stewards."

For more information on the approval process that involves completing online training and passing an online test, see: www.akc.org/akctemptest/

**Responsibilities of Evaluators** include working with the club to plan the test, designing the layout of the test, training the stewards on using the test equipment and when to deliver the stimulus, conducting the test, providing handlers with the required paperwork, and submitting the required online Test Summary Form within 7 days after the test so that titles can be issued.

The Evaluator and club work together to determine who will provide the materials for the test (teeter, PVC ladder, etc.) At the test, the Evaluator must also complete the "Record of All Dogs Tested," a short form for his or her own records that lists the owner and dog name and whether or not the test was passed.

**Substitution of an Evaluator**: In the event that an Evaluator needs to be replaced after the AKC Event application has been submitted, this should be noted on the Test Summary Form.

# **Event application**

An AKC official event application should be submitted to AKC for approval of a club's AKC Temperament Test. See www.akc.org/akctemptest/ for an application form.

If the club has two ATTs on one day, or two tests on consecutive days, each test counts as a separate event and a separate Event application is needed.

#### **Excusals**

The Evaluator should excuse dogs from the ring immediately if they show any signs of aggression or soil the ring (urinate or defecate) either indoors or outdoors.

The Evaluator may discontinue testing if he/she determines the dog is too fearful or under duress to complete the testing.

Handlers may be dismissed for excessively talking to the dog, refusal to follow the Evaluator's instructions, or for making corrections.

# **Failure (also see Retest)**

If the dog does not pass the test, the Evaluator should keep the paperwork. The results from dogs that did not pass will be needed to complete the Test Summary Form. The names of handlers and/or dogs who did not pass the test will <u>not</u> be sent to AKC. These "did not pass" forms will be used to report the test items not passed (e.g., V1, T3, P4, etc.) for the purpose of data analysis.

## **Feedback to handlers**

There are times when the Evaluator will need to give feedback to the handler. Feedback should be given in a calm, unemotional and supportive manner. Examples of when feedback is needed may include when:

A handler should attempt the test item again
 "Let's try that again. This time, you should not walk on the foam—only the dog."

- The dog needs to repeat the test item
   "Try that one again. This time, walk a little faster."
- The handler is talking too much or is using a tight leash.
  - "Remember, you should not constantly be talking to your dog."
  - "Remember, you shouldn't have a tight leash in the test."
- When the dog fails the test
  - "Your dog did great on most of the test items, but he refused to walk on the tarp. Because he got a score of 0 on that test item, he didn't pass the test. But this is something you could work on and try again."

# Fees (charging for the test)

The amount of the fee charged by the club for taking the test is determined by the club.

#### **Food rewards**

While we recognize that food can be a very valuable tool when teaching a skill, food as a reward or lure is not permitted in the ATT. Further, handlers may not use "imaginary food" where they attempt to guide the dog with an empty hand (as though they were holding food).

# **Greeting participants**

The purpose of greeting the handler at the beginning of the ATT is to provide a warm welcome, review the Breed Temperament information, and set the stage for the rules of the test. Here is the general tone of an ideal greeting:

"Welcome to the AKC Temperament Test. May I have your paperwork?" (Evaluator takes paperwork and looks at forms).

"So this is Bingo, I see he is 3 years old and he's a Beagle. Let's look at your breed's temperament...."

(Evaluator reads form to handler). "You wrote that the breed standard says Beagles are friendly, curious, they work cheerfully and are easy-going. Would you say that describes your dog?" (Owner replies)

"I'm looking forward to watching Bingo. Let's start the test. I will talk you through all of the items. Try to keep a loose leash unless I tell you otherwise. You may talk to your dog, but not excessively. Are you ready?"

# Harnesses (see Collars)

Instructions to handlers (see Greeting participants)
Judges (see Evaluators)

# **Judging limits**

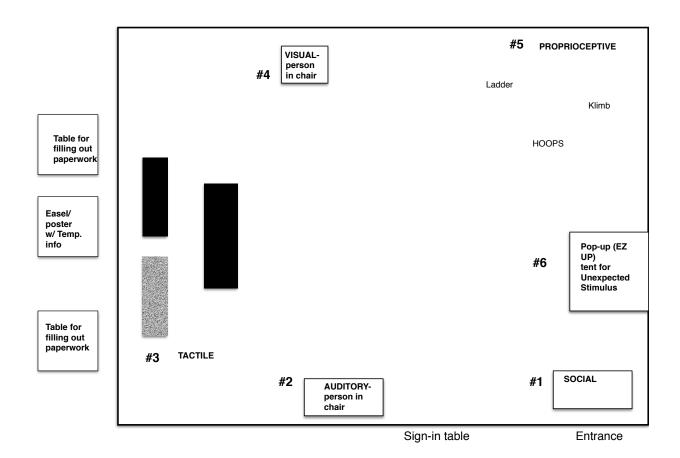
There are no judging limits with regard to the number of dogs that may be judged in the ATT. The test takes an average of 6-minutes per dog, so roughly 10 dogs per hour can be tested.

# Layout of ring

The layout of the ring is determined by the Evaluator. A ring should be at least 40 x 50 ft. but it may be larger. Larger rings provide more flexibility with regard to layout.

Below is a sample layout. Because of the ring in this diagram, it was necessary for the dog to walk past the Auditory station, do an about turn, and approach again. Each time the dog passed, the steward switched sides so the sound was always on the side next to the dog.

Evaluators may mark the directions and the order of exercises with tape, signs (such as directional Rally signs) or if the test is outdoors, small cones may be used to indicate where handlers are to walk, stop, etc.



# Leashes (see Collars, leashes)

# Liability

Only AKC licensed and member clubs may hold an ATT. Tests are held in conjunction with another AKC event (such as a dog show or trial) or as a stand alone (AKC club) event. Passing the ATT simply means that the Evaluator saw the dog successfully perform the test items at the test. There is no expectation that passing the ATT guarantees any future behavior of the dog.

# Limits—dog entries (see Judging limits)

## Lures

While we recognize that lures (to guide the dog) may be useful training tools, lures are not permitted in the ATT. Further, handlers are not permitted to use imaginary food to guide the dog into position.

#### Locations

The ATT is held only at AKC licensed or member club events. The club holding the event will select the location.

# Mileage conflicts

There are no restrictions pertaining to mileage conflicts with other events. This means that two clubs that are close by may hold an ATT on the same day.

# **Number of Evaluators and stewards**

There will be one Evaluator per test. The Evaluator judges the dogs and scores the Evaluator Score Sheet. The number of stewards per test will be determined by the Evaluator and club. For most tests, in addition to the Evaluator, a minimum of 3 stewards would be needed. One would handle sign-ins, and the other two would assist with the Auditory, Visual and Unexpected Stimulus parts of the ATT.

For the layout of the ring shown in the diagram above (page 10), in addition to the Evaluator, the following plan with 5 stewards provides more than ample help.

- 1 steward at the registration table
- 1 steward for Auditory
- 1 steward for Visual
- 2 stewards in the tent for the Unexpected Stimulus. When the test starts, one of these stewards moves to the Social area to assist the Evaluator.

Another plan that only requires 3 stewards using the diagram above would be:

- 1 steward at Registration
- 1 steward for Auditory. When Auditory is complete, while the dog is tested on Tactile, the Auditory steward goes to the Visual area.
- 1 steward for the Unexpected Stimulus. This steward can assist with Social category.

## Order of test items

The Social category is always administered first so the Evaluator can do a quick assessment of the dog to ensure that it is under the handler's control. Evaluators will decide the order in which the remaining categories are administered.

When two tests are given on the same day or on back-to-back days, following the Social category which is always administered first, the order of some of the test categories (Visual, Tactile, etc.) should be changed so there is some variability from one test to the next.

Further, when two tests are given on the same day or on back-to-back days, the 6 test items (1 per category) that were not tested in the first test should replace an item for the second test. For example, for the Auditory category, the test item choices are: A1. Shake bottle with coins, A2. Vacuum cleaner, A3. Whistle, and A4. Bike horn. The ATT must include three items from each category. So, if a morning test included the bottle, vacuum cleaner and whistle, in the afternoon, one of the three items would be replaced with the bike horn.

The wire grate must be one of the choices for Tactile in every test, and the umbrella must always be included as a Visual item.

## **Paperwork**

**Club:** The club is required to submit the official AKC Event application.

**Evaluator:** The Evaluator and club decide who will download the ATT forms for the test from www.akc.org/akctemptest/ The forms needed for testing include:

- 1) ATT Title application form for each participant,
- 2) ATT Evaluator Score Sheet for each participant,
- 3) the "Your Breed's Temperament" form for each participant, and
- 4) the online Test Summary Form to be completed by the Evaluator within 7 days of the test so the event can be closed and the titles issued.

At the test, the Evaluator must also complete the "Record of All Dogs Tested." This is a short form for the Evaluator's records that lists the owner and dog name and whether or not the test was passed.

**If the dog passes the ATT**, the Evaluator should give the dog owner the ATT Title Application form and the ATT Evaluator Score Sheet to send to AKC to request the title.

If the dog does not pass the test, the Evaluator should keep the handler's paperwork. The results from dogs that did not pass will be needed to complete the online Test Summary Form. The names of handlers and dogs who did not pass the test will not be sent to AKC. These "did not pass" Evaluator Score Sheets will be used to report the test items not passed (e.g., V1, T3, P4 etc.) in the online Test Summary Form.

**Owner:** Once the dog has passed the ATT twice, the dog owner sends to AKC 1) copy of the ATT Title Application and fee and 2) both copies of the ATT Evaluator Score Sheet.

## **Premium list**

When the ATT is held at shows or trials, the ATT should be listed in the club's premium list. Clubs should state whether or not there is a limit with regard to the number of dogs, the times for the test, the fee for testing, if sign-ups will be accepted at the event and how to preregister.

The premium list should state whether or not the ATT is restricted to a particular breed (such as in the case of a Specialty show).

When the ATT is held at a stand alone event such as an AKC club's test night, the club will decide how participants are to be notified about the ATT specifics regarding time, place, and other details.

# Registration

The club may decide how registrations will be handled. The club may decide whether or not to accept preregistrations and sign-ups at the event.

## Repeating a test item

Dogs <u>may not</u> repeat test items in these categories: Social, Auditory, Visual and Unexpected Stimulus.

Dogs <u>may</u> attempt a test item a total of 3 times for the Tactile and Proprioceptive categories. Scores are adjusted accordingly when test items are repeated.

# Responsibilities of evaluators (see Evaluators/Judges)

#### Retest

If a dog does not pass the ATT, it may take the test again as soon as the handler feels the dog is ready. If there are two tests on the same day (e.g., morning and afternoon) and the dog does not pass the morning test, it may retest in the afternoon.

# Rewards, reinforcers (food, clickers, toys)

While we recognize that food can be a very valuable tool when teaching a skill, food as a reward or lure is not permitted in the ATT. Further, handlers may not use "imaginary food" where they attempt to guide the dog with an empty hand as though they were holding food. Clickers and toys may not be used in the ATT test as reinforcers or lures.

Ring size and set up (see Layout)

Scoring the test (see Part II)

Sign-ups at test (see Registration)

# Size of ring

The ATT ring should be at least 40 ft. x 50 ft. The ring may be larger if space is available.

Soiling the ring (see Excusals)

# Spectator area

The spectator area (including chairs at ringside) should be at a distance so as not to disturb or distract the dogs in the test. Dogs that are entered in the test should not be waiting at ringside near the testing. Dogs waiting to be tested should not be able to wait near the Auditory, Visual, or Unexpected Stimulus test areas so that they are desensitized to the stimuli before testing.

**Stewards (see Qualifications)** 

**Submitting results (see Test Summary Form)** 

**Substitutions (see Evaluators/Judges)** 

# Test equipment

While there may be an initial investment for ATT materials, the club should be able to recover its costs after one good sized test. There are photos, details, measurements and sources for purchasing test items in the training module, "Assembling Your ATT Materials."

The ATT materials include:

SOCIAL

Computer bag, chair in bag on arm, large purse, etc.

**AUDITORY** 

Large plastic bottle (1-gallon milk jug), coins Hand-held vacuum cleaner Whistle Bike horn

#### **VISUAL**

Umbrella

Wagon, roller bag, crate dolly or cooler on wheels

Streamers

Hand towel

#### **TACTILE**

Wire grate (ex-pen)

Plastic tarp

Plastic lattice

Memory foam

Peg board

Air mattress

## PROPRIOCEPTIVE (motion)

PVC ladder or low bars/hurdles

Hoops (8)

Low teeter

Low platform (e.g., Klimb<sup>TM</sup>)

# **UNEXPECTED STIMULUS**

Large box

Large stuffed animal or doll

Folding chair or collapsible chair in bag

Walker, wheelchair, or crutches

Selection of unusual clothing (e.g., raincoat, hats, large coat, sun glasses, etc.)

# **Test Summary Form**

The Evaluator must submit the online ATT Test Summary form within 7 days of the test so that the event can be closed out and the titles awarded. The online Test Summary Form takes only a few minutes to complete. See: www.akc.org/akctemptest/

# Title (requirements for)

The AKC Temperament Test title is designated by the suffix ATT. The dog must pass the ATT two times under two different Evaluators at AKC licensed or member club events. The dog owner must submit the ATT Title application, the two Evaluator Score Sheets, and the \$25 title processing fee to receive the ATT title. The dog must be registered or enrolled with AKC and have an AKC number, a PAL number, or an AKC Canine Partners number.

## Qualifications

**Evaluators:** The Evaluators for the ATT are AKC Obedience judges, AKC Rally judges, or AKC Approved CGC Evaluators. The person who conducts the ATT testing is referred to as the "Evaluator." AKC Obedience and AKC Rally judges have the qualifications required of these AKC judges. In addition, they must complete the ATT online training and pass the ATT online test (see <a href="https://www.akc.org/akctemptest/">www.akc.org/akctemptest/</a>). To become ATT Evaluators, AKC CGC Approved Evaluators

must complete the CGC Evaluator approval process, complete the ATT online training, and pass the ATT online test (see <a href="https://www.akc.org/akctemptest/">www.akc.org/akctemptest/</a>).

**Stewards:** The assistants in the ATT are referred to as "stewards." The stewards are selected by the Evaluator or club. Stewards should be trained by the Evaluator on how to use the test materials and when to present/activate the stimuli prior to the start of the test.

# **PART II. The Test Items**

There are six categories in the AKC Temperament Test (ATT) and all six categories must be administered in every test. The six categories are: Social, Auditory, Visual, Tactile, Proprioceptive, and an Unexpected Stimulus.

# The Social category is always administered first. Other categories may be tested in any order.

Each of the six categories has 4 choices of test items for a total of 24 possible test items. For every test, 3 of the choices for each category must be administered.

#### SOCIAL (do this section first)

- S1. Greets handler, pets dog
- S2. Evaluator approaches, brief exam
- S3. Approach standing person who pets dog
- S4. Person approaches (carrying item), pets

#### **AUDITORY**

- A1. Shake large plastic bottle w/coins
- A2. Vacuum cleaner (hand held)
- A3. Loud whistle
- A4. Bike horn (bulb)

#### VISUAL

- V1. Umbrella opened (REQUIRED)
- V2. Roller bag, wagon, crate dolly, cooler
- V3. Streamers on stick
- V4. Shake hand towel

#### **TACTILE**

- T1. Walks on wire grate (REQUIRED)
- T2. Plastic tarp
- T3. Plastic lattice over memory foam
- T4. Pegboard over air mattress

# PROPRIOCEPTIVE (motion, position)

- P1. Cavaletti (pvc ladder or low bars)
- P2. Intersecting hoops (8)
- P3. Low teeter
- P4. Up and over low platform (e.g., Klimb  $\mathsf{TM}$ )

## **UNEXPECTED STIMULUS**

- U1. Approach, carries large box & objects
- U2. Approach, drops chair
- U3. Uses walker, crutches, or wheelchair
- U4. Approach briskly unusual clothing

# Two required items that should be in every test.

- 1. Under Tactile, walking on a wire grate is required and,
- 2. Under Visual, the **umbrella** is required in every test.

On the Tactile (and Proprioceptive) test items, the Evaluator may give the dog up to 3 tries to complete the test item. These are the only categories in which the dog may try again.

# **Before testing begins**

Before testing begins, the owner/handler signs in at the registration table and receives 1) the ATT Title Application, 2) the ATT Evaluator Score Sheet and 3) the "Your Breed's Temperament" form.

The handler should 1) complete the Title Application and 2) fill in the identifying information (e.g., owner name, dog name and number, etc.) on the ATT Evaluator Score Sheet. Using a Breed Temperament Guide provided at the test by the club, the handler also 3) fills out the form, "Your Breed's Temperament" form to give to the Evaluator when entering the ring. The club or Evaluator may put copies of the Breed Temperament Guide in binders at the registration area, and/or the breed information may be on a poster.

#### **SOCIAL TEST ITEMS**

All of the Social test items may be administered by having:

- 1) the Evaluator interact with the handler/dog, or,
- 2) a steward may greet the handler, examine and pet the dog as the Evaluator scores the test form.

In the Social category only, the Evaluator may combine items (e.g., greet the handler, pet the dog and do a brief exam without walking away between test items).

## S1. Greets handler, pets dog

With the handler and dog standing still, from a distance of 5 ft., the Evaluator or steward approaches and verbally greets the handler, e.g., "Hi, how are you today?" The Evaluator or steward then pets the dog.

#### S2. Evaluator approaches, brief exam

With the handler and dog standing still, from a distance of approximately 5 ft., the Evaluator or steward approaches and briefly examines the dog by touching the head, shoulders, and rear. The handler may talk to the dog as the Evaluator or steward approaches (e.g., "Stand" or "Watch me", etc.).

## S3. Approach standing person who pets dog

From a distance of 10 ft., the handler and dog approach a person who is standing. The person verbally greets and pets the dog.

## S4. Person approaches carrying item, pets dog

With the handler and dog standing still, a person (Evaluator or steward) approaches from a distance of approximately 10 ft. and pets the dog. The person is carrying an item such as a back pack over the shoulder, a collapsible chair in a bag, a large purse/bag, etc.

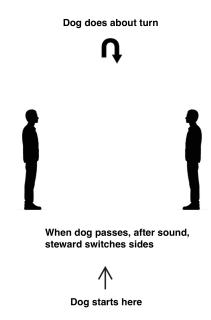
#### **AUDITORY TEST ITEMS**

For all of the Auditory test items, the steward may be standing or sitting. Sounds are activated once the dog has passed the steward. It is important that sounds are loud enough to be heard in a noisy situation such as at a dog show.

Stewards should not activate two sounds (from two different test items) at the same time or in quick succession. The dog should be exposed to one sound at a time and should walk away from the steward after each sound.

In rings where space is limited or there is only one steward for the Auditory items, the Evaluator may have the dog walk past the first sound and continue walking at least 10 ft., do an about turn, walk by the steward a second time (for the next test item), do another about turn, and approach the steward for the third sound. Having the steward switch sides prevents the handler from being between the sound and the dog.

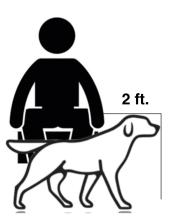
Sounds should not be activated when the handler is between the steward/sound and dog.



# A1. Shake large plastic bottle with coins

The large plastic bottle is a 1-gallon bottle (e.g., water or milk jug). The dog should not see the sounds being activated, so the steward should hold the bottle accordingly.

The dog approaches from at least 10 ft. When the tip of the dog's nose is approximately 2 ft. past being even with the steward, the steward activates the sound.



The distance between the dog and steward is 3 ft., meaning the dog walks on an imaginary line that is 3 ft. in front of the steward for all of the auditory exercises.



# A2. Vacuum cleaner

Using the same basic directions and distances in A1, the steward should activate the hand-held vacuum cleaner once the tip of the dog's nose is approximately 2 ft. past the steward. The dog walks on the imaginary line that is 3 ft. in front of the steward.

## A3. Loud whistle

Using the same basic directions and distances in A1, the steward should blow or activate the whistle once the tip of the dog's nose is approximately 2 ft. past the steward. The dog walks on the imaginary line that is 3 ft. in front of the steward.

A word about whistles: There is more information about whistles in the online course for Evaluators called, "Assembling Your ATT Test Materials." A steward may have his or her own whistle to use in the test. Otherwise, multiple whistles that are sold in packets can be purchased online. The idea here is not to put one mouth whistle in a test kit to be used repeatedly by multiple people. We suggest using an electronic, battery-operated whistle.

## A4. Bike horn (bulb)

Using the same basic directions and distances in A1, the steward should activate (by squeezing) the bike horn once the tip of the dog's nose is approximately 2 ft. past the steward. The dog walks on the imaginary line that is 3 ft. in front of the steward.

Use the type of bike horn that has a bulb to squeeze in order to get a sound loud enough to be heard. The small child's bicycle bells are not suitable.

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#### **VISUAL TEST ITEMS**

For all of the Visual test items, the steward sits in a chair. It is important that the dog is in a position to see the visual stimulus when the steward presents it.

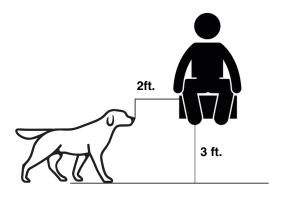
Stewards should not present two visual items at the same time (e.g., pull a wagon with one hand while waving a streamer with the other hand). The dog should be exposed to one visual test item at a time.

# V1. Umbrella opened (REQUIRED)

This test item is required for every ATT. With the steward sitting in a chair holding the umbrella (with hands at waist level), the dog and handler approach the steward from a distance of 10 ft. The dog is walking on the imaginary line that is 3 ft. in front of the steward.



Walking on the imaginary line 3 ft. in front of the steward, when the dog's nose is 2-ft. from being even with the steward, the steward opens the umbrella. The umbrella should be pointed forward, not aimed at the floor or up in the air.



The umbrella should be opened with one quick movement. Many dogs are likely to startle at the opening of the umbrella.

If a dog startles and does not immediately recover: Some dogs will startle when the umbrella is opened, and then will recover within a few seconds. Other dogs are uncertain about the umbrella. In this test item, if the dog is uncertain once the umbrella has been opened, the steward should hold the umbrella in the open position and allow the handler to show the umbrella to the dog. The handler should touch the umbrella (not looking at the dog) and say something (e.g., "what a nice umbrella") while looking at the umbrella. The dog should be given a chance to investigate. The Evaluator may give the handler verbal directions re: allowing the dog to investigate the umbrella.

#### V2. Roller bag, wagon, crate dolly, cooler

The steward will direct the handler and dog to stand in a specific spot (that may be marked by tape or a marker if outdoors). There should be sufficient space so that the steward can circle the dog with a wagon, roller bag, cooler on wheels, etc. The steward will make a complete circle around the dog, remaining at least it 3 ft. from the dog when circling.

#### V3. Streamers on a stick

The streamers for this test item are also referred to as "ribbon wands" or "gymnastics streamers." The steward will direct the handler and dog to stand in a specific spot (that may be marked by tape or a marker if outdoors). The steward will walk in front of the dog, staying at least 3 ft. away, and will twirl the streamers while standing in front of the dog.

The steward should hold the streamer approximately waist-high. The streamer should be twirled in a circle (like a cowboy lasso).

#### V4. Shake hand towel

The steward will direct the handler and dog to stand in a specific spot (that may be marked by tape or a marker if outdoors). Holding two corners of the hand towel, at a distance of approximately 5 ft. from the handler and dog, the steward will wave the towel 3-4 times (as if to shake off sand). The towel should not be waved so hard that there is a snapping sound; the purpose of this test item is the visual aspect only.

#### **TACTILE TEST ITEMS**

Tactile basically means "touch." Some dogs are sensitive to having their feet touch unfamiliar surfaces. The section of the test assesses the dog's reaction to a variety of surfaces.

One of the two required ATT test items is T1—walking on a wire grate. This test item must be given in every test. (The other required test item is the umbrella in the Visual category).

Details regarding the measurements and set up of the Tactile items are in the online module, "Assembling Your ATT Test Materials."

On the Tactile (and Proprioceptive) test items, the Evaluator may give the dog up to 3 tries to complete the test item. These are the only two categories in which the dog may try again. An example of trying again is when the dog walks to the side of the wire grate rather than on it. The Evaluator may ask the handler to "Try again." Sometimes a nervous handler walks on the surface with the dog. The Evaluator may ask this handler to repeat the exercise saying, "This time, you should walk on the floor and only the dog is on the tarp."

## T1. Walks on wire grate (REQUIRED).

The wire grate in this test will usually be an exercise pen that has been opened so that it lays flat on the floor. The grate should be approximately 8 ft. long or 6 sections of the exercise pen. The grate should be at least 2 ft. wide.

Following the instructions from the Evaluator, beginning at about 5 ft. away, the handler will proceed forward. The dog should walk across the wire grate; the handler does not walk on the grate.

If a dog puts on the brakes and refuses to walk on the grate: The Evaluator may let the handler and dog try this test item a total of 3 times. Sometimes, the handler is so tentative that the dog is tentative. The Evaluator may ask the handler to try again, "...and this time, try it going a little faster."

#### T2. Plastic tarp (wrinkled)

This test item involves the dog walking over a plastic tarp of any color that is approximately 9 ft.  $\times$  12 ft. in size. The tarp should be somewhat wrinkled to provide a more challenging surface for the dog.

Following the instructions from the Evaluator, beginning at about 5 ft. away, the handler will proceed forward. The dog should walk across the tarp; the handler does not walk on the tarp. If the dog refuses to walk on the tarp on the first attempt, the handler/dog may try two more times for a total of 3 attempts.

## T3. Plastic lattice over memory foam

This is one of the test items in which materials are layered to make the test item more complex. See the online module, "Assembling Your ATT Test Materials," for a photo and size dimensions of the memory foam (that is at least a 1-inch thickness) with the plastic lattice on top.

Following the instructions from the Evaluator, beginning at about 5 ft. away, the handler and dog will proceed forward. The dog should walk across the lattice/foam; the handler does not walk on the lattice/foam. If the dog refuses to walk on the lattice and foam, the handler/dog may try two more times for a total of 3 attempts.

# T4. Pegboard over air mattress

This is another test item in which materials are layered to make the test item more complex. See the online module, "Assembling Your ATT Test Materials," for a photo and size dimensions of the pegboard and air mattress.

Following the instructions from the Evaluator, beginning at about 5 ft. away, the handler and dog will proceed forward. The dog should walk across the pegboard/air mattress; the handler does not walk on the pegboard/air mattress.

If the dog refuses to walk on the pegboard/air mattress, the handler/dog may try two more times for a total of 3 attempts.

## PROPRIOCEPTIVE TEST ITEMS (motion, body position)

The term, "proprioceptive" refers to stimuli that relate to the position and movement of the body. A short-hand term used for this category is "motion." For humans, an example of a proprioceptive exercise might be throwing a baseball without looking at the hand or arm that is throwing the ball. For a dog, a proprioceptive exercise would be walking through a ladder on the ground. Here, the dog needs to be aware of where to place the back feet.

Because not all temperament tests include proprioceptive test items, some people are not sure of the connection between proprioception and temperament. In fact, early temperament tests assessed proprioception through test items that used ladders and ramps.

Details regarding the measurements and set up of the Proprioceptive items are in the online module, "Assembling Your ATT Test Materials."

On the Proprioceptive test items, the Evaluator may give the dog up to 3 tries to complete the test item. Proprioception, along with Tactile, are the only categories in which the dog may try again. A Proprioceptive example of trying again is the dog walks to the Klimb™ and refuses to step on it. The Evaluator may ask the handler to "Try again." Sometimes a nervous handler will begin trying to lure the dog into the equipment, often using an imaginary piece of food. The Evaluator may ask this handler to repeat the exercise by backing up and trying again. The Evaluator should also remind the handler that food (both real and imaginary) is not permitted in the ATT. Training is also not permitted during the ATT.

## P1. Cavaletti (PVC ladder) or low bars.

The PVC ladder in this exercise may be constructed by the club/Evaluator or it may be purchased, (e.g., the Do More With Your Dog "DMWYD rainbow ladder"). For details regarding the ladder, see the online module, "Assembling Your ATT Test Materials."

The DMWYD ladder is set up with the legs removed. For both the ladder and low bars, this is not a jumping exercise. The point of this test item is to assess the dog's ability to move its front and back feet to negotiate the ladder rungs or bars.

For tiny dogs, bars may be placed on the ground.

Following the instructions from the Evaluator, beginning at about 5 ft. away, the handler will proceed forward. The dog should walk through the ladder or low bars. The handler does not walk through the ladder or low bars; the handler is always on the side.

If the dog refuses to walk through the ladder or low bars, the handler/dog may try 2 more times for a total of 3 tries.

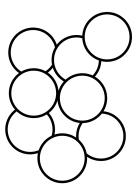
## P2. Intersecting hoops (8)

In this test item, 8 hula hoops are placed on the floor or group in an intersecting pattern.

Following the instructions from the Evaluator, beginning at about 5 ft. away, the handler will proceed forward. The dog should walk through the hoops. The handler does not walk through the hoops; the handler is always on the side. The Evaluator may ask the handler to take the dog straight through the hoops, or walk in a circular pattern.

If the dog disturbs the hoops with its feet, it is not penalized. If the dog refuses to walk through the hoops, the handler/dog may try 2 more times for a total of 3 tries.

An example of a hoop pattern is below.



#### P3. Low teeter

The teeter for this test item is constructed by the club or evaluator. More information on the teeter, including a photo, is in the online module, "Assembling Your ATT Test Materials."

The teeter is constructed of ¾-inch plywood that is approximately 2-1/2 ft. x 4 ft. It is important that the wood is sanded and/or of a high enough quality that it is smooth. Any rough edges may be taped (or sanded) so there are no exposed splinters and the teeter can be safely carried.

The teeter is placed over a "pool noodle" that has been cut in half long-ways. The flat side is down to keep the noodle from rolling.

Following the instructions from the Evaluator, beginning at about 5 ft. away, the handler will proceed forward. The dog should walk over the teeter. The handler does not walk on the teeter; the handler is always on the side.

If the dog refuses to walk on the teeter, the handler/dog may try 2 more times (total of 3 tries).

# P4. Up and over low platform (e.g., Klimb™)

The platform in this exercise may be constructed by the club/evaluator or it may be purchased, (e.g., the Klimb™). The club may also use an agility pause table with the legs removed for the platform. For details regarding the platform (including measurements or where to purchase), see the online module, "Assembling Your ATT Test Materials."

This is not intended to be a jumping exercise and it does not require the dog to get on the platform and sit or stay. This is a simple walk "up and over" exercise.

Following the instructions from the Evaluator, beginning at about 5 ft. away, the handler will proceed forward. The dog should walk "up and over" the platform. The handler should not attempt to train or lure the dog onto the platform.

If the dog refuses to get on the platform, the handler/dog may start over two more times, for a total of 3 tries.

#### **UNEXPECTED STIMULUS TEST ITEMS**

The Unexpected Stimulus category involves an unexpected person coming out from behind a screen and walking toward the dog and handler. These test items simulate what might happen to a dog in the real world- a delivery person walks toward the dog carrying a large box, someone drops something, or the dog sees someone in unusual clothing such as a hat, sunglasses, or a flapping raincoat.

The screen in the Unexpected Stimulus category may be a self constructed screen (e.g., a tarp over a PVC frame), a "pop-up" tent (e.g., E-Z Up™ or similar), etc. Indoors, it is also acceptable for the unexpected person to come out of an adjoining room. When the test is conducted outdoors in a field, an SUV or other large vehicle may be used as the screen.

Details regarding the specifics of the Unexpected Stimulus items are in the online module, "Assembling Your ATT Test Materials."

# U1. Approach, carries large box and items

The steward is behind the screen. The dog and handler are standing at a spot designated by the Evaluator. The dog may sit or stand. When the Evaluator cues the steward, from a distance of about 20 ft., the steward comes out from behind the screen carrying the objects and walks briskly toward the dog, stopping at a distance of 5 ft. away, turning 180 degrees, and returning to behind the screen.

Another option is the steward may also exit to the side.

The steward should carry a large box, plus the "item" (e.g., a large stuffed animal or doll).

## U2. Approach, drops folding chair

This test item involves the use of a folded metal folding chair or a collapsible chair in a carry bag. The test item begins with the steward behind the screen. The dog and handler are standing at a spot designated by the Evaluator. The dog may sit or stand. When the Evaluator cues the steward, from a distance of 20 ft., the steward comes out from behind the screen carrying the chair and walks briskly toward the dog, dropping the chair at a distance of 5 ft. away. The steward then picks up the chair, turns 180 degrees, and returns to behind the screen. The steward may also exit to the side.

The steward may talk (to no one in particular) during the exercise and upon dropping the chair exclaim something such as, "OH NO!!" or "WHOOPS, I DROPPED IT!!"

#### U3. Uses walker, crutches or wheelchair

A walker, crutches or wheelchair is used in this test item. The test item begins with the steward behind the screen. The dog and handler are standing at a spot designated by the Evaluator. The dog may sit or stand. When the Evaluator cues the steward, from a distance of 20 ft., the steward comes out from behind the screen using either the walker, crutches or wheelchair and

walks briskly toward the dog, stopping at a distance of 5 ft. away. The steward then turns 180 degrees, and returns to behind the screen. The steward may also exit to the side.

The steward may talk (to no one in particular) during the exercise and may use an unusual body posture (e.g., hunched over with the walker). The steward may allow the walker or crutches to make a noise each time they touch the floor.

# U4. Approach briskly – unusual clothing.

Unusual clothing such as a raincoat, sunglasses, funny hats, large hoodies, a cape or costumes are the objects used in this test item. The test item begins with the steward behind the screen. The dog and handler are standing at a spot designated by the Evaluator. The dog may sit or stand. When the Evaluator cues the steward, from a distance of 20 ft., the steward comes out from behind the screen wearing the selected outfit and walks briskly toward the dog, stopping at a distance of 5 ft. away. The steward then turns 180 degrees, and returns to behind the screen. The steward may also exit to the side.

The steward may talk (to no one in particular) during the exercise and may use an unusual body posture). The steward may move the clothing, such as gently flapping the sides of the raincoat.

# **PART III: SCORING THE ATT**

Every individual test item on the ATT is scored by the Evaluator using a scale that goes from 0 to 4.

4 1 0 2 3 Refuses Nervous or agitated. **SCORING** Moderate fear or Brief fear or brief Calm. to do item Has recovered confident. startle. Takes a startle but recovers within 30 sec. or while to recover quickly (within 5-sec.) No startle needs 3 tries. (within 15-sec.) or or needs 1 try. or refusal. needs 2 tries.

#### 4 - Calm, confident. No startle or refusal.

To be scored 4, the dog is confident and does not react.

#### A score of 4 would be:

- Social the dog who greets the person with no fear or hesitancy. The dog is not penalized for being excited or wiggling when meeting the person.
- Auditory walks past the noises with no reaction. May have a casual, momentary glance toward the noise, but does not flinch, startle or try to go toward the noise.
- Visual has no reaction and is calm and confident when visual test items (such as the umbrella) are presented. May take a quick look, but then moves on or does not respond.
- Tactile walks on the surfaces (tarp, etc.) with no hesitation. Shows no signs of nervousness or being tentative. Does this on the first attempt.
- Proprioceptive walks over the equipment (ladder, etc.) with no hesitation.
   Shows no signs of nervousness or being tentative. Does this on the first attempt.
- Unexpected Stimulus when the stranger comes out from behind the screen, the dog does not react when seeing the stranger carrying something, talking, using equipment such as a walker, or wearing unusual clothes. The dog may carefully watch the stranger and may occasionally glance at its handler, but it should not lean or jump on the handler for assurance. The dog should sit or stand still and should not lunge at or move toward the stranger.

## 3 – Brief fear or brief startle but recovers quickly (within 5 seconds) or needs 1 try.

For the test item be scored 3, the dog may react to the test stimuli but recovers within 5-seconds. The reaction is momentary.

#### A score of 3 would be:

- Social greets the person but demonstrates an initial brief sign of fear, uncertainty or hesitancy. The dog recovers within 5 seconds and accepts petting, a brief exam, etc.
- Auditory walks past the noises (e.g., the whistle) and very briefly startles (e.g., flinching, jumping, appearing uncertain about the noise). May try to take a step or two toward the noise, but recovers and is ready to work within 5-seconds.
- Visual when watching or walking toward the visual object (e.g., umbrella or hand towel), the dog very briefly startles (e.g., flinching, jumping, appearing uncertain about the object). Recovers and is ready to work within 5-seconds.
- Tactile walks on the surfaces (tarp, etc.) with a small amount of fear or hesitation. May be somewhat nervous or tentative but steps on the surface within 5 seconds. Does this on the first attempt.
- Proprioceptive walks over the equipment (ladder, etc.) with a small amount of fear or hesitation. May be somewhat nervous or tentative and might not step on/over the equipment (e.g., ladder, hoops) immediately, but walks on equipment within 5 seconds. Does this on the first attempt.
- Unexpected Stimulus when the stranger comes out from behind the screen, the dog may have a brief reaction when seeing the stranger carrying something, talking, using equipment such as a walker, or wearing unusual clothes. The dog may carefully watch the stranger and may briefly (5 seconds or less) lean on or jump on the handler for assurance. The dog may take a few steps toward the stranger but should not lunge at the stranger.

#### 2 – Moderate fear or startle. Takes a while to recover (within 15 seconds) or needs 2 tries.

The test item is scored as 2 when the dog shows moderate fear or a startle response for which it takes more than 5 and up to 15 seconds to recover. In the Tactile and Proprioceptive categories, the test item is scored 2 if 2 tries are required.

#### A score of 2 would be:

• Social - greets the person but demonstrates moderate fear, uncertainty or hesitancy. The dog is likely to withdraw from the person who is trying to pet it or do a brief exam, and it may take up to 15 seconds to accept petting.

- Auditory walks past the noises (e.g., bike horn) and startles (e.g., flinching, jumping, appearing uncertain about the noise), taking up to 15 seconds to recover. If the dog attempts to go to the sound, it should be ready to work within 15 seconds.
- Visual when watching or walking toward the visual object (e.g., streamers or the umbrella), the dog startles (e.g., flinching, jumping, appearing uncertain about the object), taking up to 15 seconds to recover. For the umbrella, if the dog startles, the Evaluator might instruct the handler to let the dog investigate the umbrella. The Evaluator should consider how long it takes the dog to investigate (touch, sniff) the umbrella and become calm.
- Tactile walks on the surfaces (lattice over memory foam, etc.) but with fear (shaking, quivering) or hesitation. Dogs who are refusing to walk on the surface may be given a total of 2 tries by the Evaluator. If 2 tries are needed, the test item should be scored as 2.
- Proprioceptive walks over the equipment (ladder, etc.) but with a moderate amount of fear or hesitation. May be moderately nervous or tentative. Dogs who are refusing to walk over/through the equipment (e.g., ladder, hoops) may be given 2 tries by the Evaluator. If 2 tries are needed, the test item should be scored as 2.
- Unexpected Stimulus when the stranger comes out from behind the screen, the dog may have a moderate reaction when seeing the stranger carrying something, talking, using equipment such as a walker, or wearing unusual clothes. If the dog leans on or jumps on the handler for assurance for more than 5 seconds but up to 15 seconds, these test items are scored as 2. The dog may carefully watch the stranger. If the dog attempts to move toward the stranger taking more than a few steps, the test item should be scored as 2.

#### 1 – Nervous or agitated. Has recovered within 30 seconds or needs 3 tries.

The test item is scored as 1 when the dog has a startle response for which it takes **more** than 15 seconds or up to 30 seconds to recover.

In the Tactile and Proprioceptive categories, the test item is scored 1 if 3 tries are required.

# A score of 1 would be:

- Social greets the person but demonstrates obvious fear, shyness, or uncertainty. The dog withdraws from the person who is trying to pet it or do a brief exam, and it may take more than 15 seconds and up to 30 seconds to accept petting.
- Auditory walks past the noises (e.g., vacuum cleaner) and startles (e.g., flinching, jumping, appearing uncertain about the noise), taking more than 15 seconds and up to 30 seconds to recover.

- Visual when watching or walking toward the visual object (e.g., hand towel or the umbrella), the dog startles (e.g., flinching, jumping, appearing uncertain about the object), taking more than 15 seconds and up to 30 seconds to recover. For the umbrella, if the dog startles, the Evaluator might instruct the handler to let the dog investigate the umbrella. The Evaluator should consider how long it takes the dog to investigate (touch, sniff) the umbrella and become calm. The dog should recover within 30 seconds.
- Tactile walks on the surfaces (pegboard & air mattress, etc.) but with fear (shaking, quivering) or hesitation. Dogs who are refusing to walk on the surface may be given a total of 3 tries by the Evaluator. If 3 tries are needed, the test item should be scored as 1.
- Proprioceptive walks over the equipment (low teeter, etc.) but with fear or hesitation. Dogs who are refusing to walk over/through the equipment (e.g., hoops, Klimb™) may be given a total of 3 tries by the Evaluator. If 3 tries are needed, the test item should be scored as 1.
- Unexpected Stimulus when the stranger comes out from behind the screen, the dog has an obvious reaction when seeing the stranger carrying something, talking, using equipment such as a walker, or wearing unusual clothes. If the dog leans on or jumps on the handler for assurance for more than 15 seconds but up to 30 seconds, these test items are scored as 1. The dog may carefully watch the stranger. If the dog attempts to move toward the stranger by taking more than a few steps and pulls on the leash, the test item should be scored as 1.

#### 0 – Refuses to do item.

The test item is scored as 0 when the dog refuses to do the test item. This would also be when the dog startles at the presentation of a stimulus and does not recover within 30 seconds, or when the dog has not performed a Tactile or Proprioceptive test item within 3 tries. Once a dog has not performed the test item within 3 tries, the test item should be stopped and the handler/dog should move on to the next item.

#### A score of 0 would be:

- Social Dog does not allow Evaluator or steward to pet it or conduct a brief exam. Dog hides behind owner. Any sign of aggression (snarling, growling, threatening to bite, biting) results in the dog not passing the ATT.
- Auditory the startle (e.g., flinching, jumping, appearing uncertain about the noise) is so extreme that the dog takes longer than 30 seconds to recover or it has an extreme reaction such as pulling on the leash to get away from the noises and not recovering.
- Visual when watching or walking toward the visual object (e.g., wagon or the umbrella), the dog startles (e.g., flinching, jumping, appearing uncertain about the object), taking more than 30 seconds to recover. For the umbrella,

if the dog startles, the Evaluator might instruct the handler to let the dog investigate the umbrella. The Evaluator should consider how long it takes the dog to investigate (touch, sniff) the umbrella and become calm. If the dog takes longer than 30 seconds to recover, the score is 0.

- Tactile refuses to walk on the surfaces (pegboard & air mattress, etc.) and shows signs of fearfulness (shaking, quivering) or hesitation. Dogs who are refusing to walk on the surface may be given 3 tries by the Evaluator. If the dog does not perform the test item within 3 tries, the test item should be scored as 0.
- Proprioceptive refuses to walk over the equipment (e.g., plastic lattice over memory foam, etc.) or shows signs of extreme fear or hesitation. If the dog does not perform the test item in 3 tries, the test item should be scored as 0.
- Unexpected Stimulus when the stranger comes out from behind the screen, the dog has an obvious reaction when seeing the stranger carrying something, talking, using equipment such as a walker, or wearing unusual clothes. If the dog leans on or jumps on the handler for assurance for more than 30 seconds, these test items are scored as 0. The dog may carefully watch the stranger. If the dog behaves in an aggressive manner (e.g., lunging at the stranger), the test item should be scored as 0.

#### **PASS**

Scores of 3 and 4; only one item on the test may be scored as 1.

#### DOES NOT PASS (NEEDS WORK)

Score of 0 on any item.

More than 1 item scored as 1.

Score of 2 on more than 3 items.

Any sign of aggression of extreme shyness.

Soiling the ring (indoors or outdoors).

-end-