

APDT Good Companion Assessment - Puppy

Assessment for puppies up to 26 weeks old:

All exercises must comply with the APDT Code of Practice and positive, motivational methods must be employed at all times. Clickers, food and toys may be used wherever needed and appropriate at this stage for reward purposes but not as a lure.

Assessment to be made of handlers ability to deal with any problems that may occur in a kind, fair and effective manner while encouraging the puppy to go through the assessment criteria.

The failure of the puppy to complete any of the exercises is not to be assessed. The assessment will be made of the handler's attitude and ability to deal with the puppy in the event of a failure and how they encourage the puppy to achieve success.

The puppy should complete all the criteria without a food or toy lure but may be rewarded at any time. If the handler is having difficulty and it is necessary for a lure to be used to remind the puppy of the exercise, the puppy should not jump up to snatch the food/toy from the handler.

Should the puppy become over-excited and start to jump up the manner in which the handler deals with this will be assessed.

1. Response to name or touch – puppy should respond to handler when the name is spoken or the pup is touched gently. The pup should maintain eye contact for 1-2 seconds
2. Handling – puppy should be comfortable with the handler or instructor to gently touch him/her all over, check ears, teeth, eyes, under tail and paws
3. The puppy should be comfortable having lead taken on and off.
4. Sit, down, stand – the puppy should be able to perform 2 out of three of the criteria on cue. The handler should say the cue only once and allow the puppy 4-5 seconds to respond. A hand signal may also be used.
5. Leave it from hand – the puppy should not lunge forward to take a treat. He or she should then be rewarded.
6. The handler should demonstrate bringing the puppy into position at their side ready to walk on a loose lead.

7. The handler should demonstrate the ability to encourage the puppy to walk on a loose lead for 3-4 strides.
8. The puppy should recall with enthusiasm to the handler from 5 metres – puppy may be held by the instructor or assistant before being recalled.
9. The puppy should stay calmly in either sit or down at the side of the owner, for approximately 10 seconds.
10. The puppy should show self control when greeting people.
11. The puppy should demonstrate self control when for example: jumping out of the car, going through a gateway or doorway.
12. Handler should have poo bags and dog should be wearing an ID tag.