

# TEMPERAMENT TEST ASSOCIATES

The Temperament Test is designed for dogs at least 12 months of age. Two evaluators measure the dog's strength of response at each of the 10 sub-tests. All officials conducting the evaluation are schooled centrally and registered with the Temperament Test Associates. Procedure and equipment are standardized in uniform fairness to each dog participating.

Just prior to the test beginning, the Chief Tester gives an introduction to the test and then walks with the test participants through all of the course test stations, explaining step by step the stimuli that will be presented and the various reactions a dog may show, how to handle your dog in a positive way, and what the handler must avoid during the test. During the test dogs are on a 6 foot leash. They may not be under any kind of command or attempted influence by the handler.

The character and/or disposition of all breeds of dogs varies depending on what they were meant to be used for. ie., herding, obedience, sleding, hunting etc. But GOOD TEMPERAMENT IS GOOD TEMPERAMENT; and BAD TEMPERAMENT IS BAD TEMPERAMENT IN ANY BREED IN ANY DOG. In these evaluations all dogs are judged according to their age, breed and socialization. ie. house dog, kennel dog, working in conformation, tracking, obedience or schutzhund.

The owner of each dog passing the testing requirements will receive a certificate with the dog's name and breed designation. The dog's name may now be listed with the letters TT after the dog's name. A central registry will record all breeds and individual dogs passing these tests. These records will be available to National and Regional breed clubs. The TT Qualifies as 5 points towards a working title for a Canadian ROMC.

The Ten Subtests are as follows:

Test 1, 2, and 3 - Behaviour Toward Strangers  
Objective: To determine the dog's reaction to strangers in a non-threatening situation.

1) Neutral Stranger - A stranger to the dog approaches the handler, shakes hands and ignores the dog for 10 seconds. 2) Friendly Stranger - A Stranger to the dog approaches happily and briskly and is exuberantly friendly to the dog. Petting for 10 seconds. 3) Crowd Scene - Approximately 8 people come from many directions and walk toward the dog and handler to create a circle around the team. The diameter of the circle not be less than 8 feet.

Test 4, 5 - Reaction to Acoustic Stimuli  
Objective: To test the dog's reaction to two acoustic stimuli, and to measure the dog's investigative behaviour. This test shows alertness and curiosity. 4) Hidden Clattering - as the dog and handler approach the well-hidden assistant, the assistant begins to rattle a galvanized metal bucket filled with rocks. The dog should investigate otherwise the handler may encourage the dog. The handler's focus must be on the stimulus, not on the dog. 5) Gun Test - Dog and handler have their backs turned to the unnoticed and well-hidden assistant. Team and assistant are 15 feet apart. The assistant fires three shots.

Test 6 - Reaction To A Visual Stimulus  
Objective: To test the dog's reaction to a sudden visual stimulus. To measure the dog's investigative behaviour and the startle-recovery time. 6) Umbrella Test - When the dog is 5 ft from the umbrella, the catch on the umbrella is suddenly but smoothly released so that the umbrella will open at a 90 degree angle to the path of the dog. The dog should investigate the umbrella within 15 seconds. Otherwise, the handler may encourage the dog for 15 seconds to approach the umbrella.

### Test 7 - Reaction to Unusual Footing

Objective: To measure the dog's reaction to unusual footing. 7) Grate Footing - the Handler-dog team both walk over a 15 ft. x 4 ft. length of 9 guage chain-link fencing laid flat on the ground.

### Test 8, 9 and 10 - Self-

#### Protectiveness/Aggressive Reaction

Objective: To test the dog's capacity to focus

1) on an unusual stimulus, b) to recognize a threat, c) to react in the face of a threat. 8)

Recognizes Stimuli - as the team comes to within 30 ft of the well hidden unfriendly stranger, the unfriendly stranger emerges from his hiding place making unusual sounds and motions. The unfriendly stranger

crosses the path of the team. 9) Recognizes

Threat - The unfriendly stranger turns

towards the team raising his riding crop,

continues the unusual noises and motions

and advances to a distance of 20 ft. 10) Dog

Is Threatened - The unfriendly stranger then

pounds his riding crop six times on the

ground as he advances to within 10 ft of the

team.

It takes about 10 minutes for the team to move through the ten test stations. At the conclusion of a test, each handler will receive a verbal critique on the dog's test performance. A test is failed if the dog at any time shows extreme avoidance, hides behind the handler or panics, shows aggressiveness when not provoked, or exhibits obvious avoidance at the footing test. At any of the tests the dog may startle, but it is the recovery time that we are interested in.

If the dog passes all of the sub-tests, he will receive a certificate, the day of the test, with his Temperament Test Number.