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Having A Great Relationship With Your Dog Means Having A Well Trained Dog!

Training your dog actually starts (or at least it should) from the moment you select your puppy. How come? Because not all puppies are born equal! For example did you know that:

- By 7 weeks of age a puppy has attained its adult dog character!
- Most abandoned dogs are a result of improper or careless puppy selection!
- Puppies have different dispositions; some are sweet some not so much!
- Some puppies are easy to train while others are downright difficult!
- Your puppy won't remain a cute furry bundle of joy forever!
- If you're a 1st time dog owner certain puppies are simply not for you!

Before you get your dog there are a couple of important points that you need to cover. Such as deciding on the role your dog is going to play in your life. It is quite likely that you want a dog for any one of the following activities:

- ✓ Protector
- ✓ Companion
- ✓ Herder
- ✓ Hunting
- ✓ Play buddy for the kids
- ✓ Dog show performer

So why are these assumptions important?

They're important because it means that you have done enough research to ensure that you can readily identify the dog breed that will perfectly compliment

you and your lifestyle. In other words your new dog (and best friend) won't be tossed out to a shelter any time soon because of a clash of personalities!



Individuals In The Same Family Have Widely Different Personalities...So Do Puppies!

You know how kids from the same family can be very different? Like the shy nerdy kid who's always curled up somewhere reading a book or on the computer as compared to a super popular sibling who's always the center of attention!

Well dog families are exactly the same! In any given litter of puppies (no matter the breed of dog) you're gonna find that one puppy who is always the first to do anything and always the center of attention. Furthermore some puppies will be more aggressive than others, some will bask and glow in your attention...

...and then there'll be that one puppy who sits alone to one side unimpressed by your attempts to get it to join in the fun activity of licking your hand like its siblings!



How To Identify Your Puppy From an Adorable Warm Fuzzy Heap of Cuddlies

At the expense of being accused of sounding like a broken record let me repeat that by the tender age of 7 weeks (49 days) your puppy has already developed its adult dog personality!

Okay this may not seem particularly relevant offhand but let me ask you this...

Do You Really Want To Struggle With An Unruly 150lb Dog That Has Its Own Idea Of What Is Best?

Because that may be precisely your fate if you choose the wrong puppy that belongs to a large dog breed!

No doubt, a young puppy is fairly easy to control and dominate because it is small but always bear in mind that one day that furry bundle of joy is going to morph into a 150lb canine freight train (depending on the breed of course) with a totally different opinion to yours of what constitutes good and polite canine behavior!

Are you up to the task to handle that? Or perhaps more importantly would you even want to!

And if your dog happens to be one of the more massive breeds with a genetic predisposition to unfriendliness (think big herding dogs) then *boy are you gonna be in trouble when things get out of hand!*

But luckily you can avoid all that without having to sacrifice the dog breed you have set your heart on.

How?

By using the Puppy Assessment Test, a tried and proven procedure to determine puppy/owner compatibility with extremely accurate precision!

Puppy Assessment Test

History of The Test

So what is the puppy assessment test?

The origins of this test date all the way back to the 1930s when it was first conducted on dogs destined to become guide dogs. Later on in the 1950s research methods that were originally designed to determine the learning abilities in children were modified and adapted for puppy assessment.

The point of the test was to predict the future adult behavior and character of puppies by the tender age of 7 weeks old. Needless to say the test is extremely accurate and is being adopted by more and more breeders every year.

This test which is known in many circles as the Puppy Aptitude Test was modernized and refined to its present state by the Volhards.

What Is Puppy Testing All About?

Over the years extensive research has proven beyond a shadow of doubt that not only can future behavioral traits and characteristics of adult dogs be determined when they are still puppies those traits can be identified when the dog is just 49 days old (7 weeks).

Hence it has been established that the best time to conduct the Puppy Aptitude Test is when the puppy is 49 days old. Conducting the test before or after 49 days is going to impact the results of the test in a negative way.

Before 49 days of age the puppy is still too young because it has not yet attained full neurological development. In other words it has not yet developed its full adult brain. After 49 days of age the test results will be skewed by prior learning experiences.

Significance of The Test

As just pointed out this test is to assess each puppy in a litter in order to ascertain its future adult dog characteristics. Thus as such there is no such thing as a winner or loser here. The goal is to match the right puppy with the right owner; in other words the definitive purpose of the test is to attain optimum puppy-owner compatibility!

The Puppy Aptitude Test utilizes a scoring system from 1 – 6 covering ten (10) test parameters. The tests should be done in the order listed and each puppy should be tested separately and on its own.



How To Conduct The Test

- The testing should be done in a location unfamiliar to the puppies; such a location could be a room at home where the puppies have never been.
- The puppies are tested individually and separately.
- The puppies should be unfamiliar with the tester.
- The Scorer is someone other than the tester.
- The scorer should be neutral and have nothing to gain from the puppies' performance (in other words don't get the breeder or puppy owner to do the scoring!).
- Only the puppy, tester and scorer should be in the testing area.
- The scorer should be positioned so as to be unobtrusive whilst the test is being conducted but strategically located to be able to see all the pup's responses.
- The puppies should be tested before feeding.
- The puppies should be tested when they are well and at peak energy.
- Testing should not be conducted on the day of vaccination or the day afterwards.
- The first response is the only one that matters!

The Test Evaluates The Following Parameters

The puppies should be tested for the following traits in the order they are listed:

1. Social Attraction – Degree of attraction to people and overall confidence & dependence.
2. Following – Puppy's willingness and tendency to follow a person.
3. Restraint – Level and extent of dominant or submissive characteristics and ease of handling in stressful situations.
4. Social Dominance – Degree to which pup accepts social dominance by a person.
5. Elevation – Ease (*or lack thereof as the case may be*) with which puppy accepts domination while in a position of no control (*think future visits to the vet*).
6. Retrieving – Measure of willingness to do your bidding.
7. Touch Sensitivity – Determines pup's sensitivity to touch (key indicator in the type of training equipment and method you will need to school the puppy).
8. Sound Sensitivity – Degree of sensitivity to loud noises.
9. Sight Sensitivity – Excitement level to moving objects; in other words tendency to chase moving objects.
10. Stability – Measure of the extent to which the puppy is agitated by a strange object.

TIPS:

- A. It is important to keep note of the status of the puppy's tail. Yes...It makes quite a difference if the puppy's tail is up or down.
- B. Be aware of the puppy's heart rate during testing because it is a good indicator of how well the puppy deals with stress, as well as acting as a monitor of sorts for the puppy's energy level. Puppies have different energy

levels (low, medium and high) and you need to decide which energy level best matches your personality and lifestyle.

- C. Carefully evaluate the entire puppy's body build and structure. If the puppy is well formed with good bone structure and possesses straight hind and front legs then as an adult it will turn out that way (assuming the puppy is fed well). Any deformities found at the 49th week of age will be reflected in the adult dog!
- D. Good scores on Social Attraction, Following and Retrieving are strong indicators of a puppy that will be easy and a delight to train.



Puppy Assessment Test Scoring

Test	Goal	Score
<p>1. Social Attraction: The owner of the puppy puts it in the test area then leaves. From a few feet off the tester kneels on the ground and entices the puppy to approach by gently clapping and calling to it. The tester has to coax the puppy in a direction opposite from where it entered the room.</p>	<p>Determine degree of social attraction, dependence and confidence.</p>	<p>1. Came eagerly, tail raised, jumped, nipped at testers hands. 2. Came eagerly, tail raised, pawed, licked at testers hands. 3. Came eagerly, tail raised. 4. Came readily, tail lowered. 5. Approached hesitantly, tail lowered. 6. Made no effort to approach.</p>
<p>2. Following: Get up and walk away from the puppy casually – make sure the puppy sees you leave. It’s okay to clap lightly to get its attention.</p>	<p>Good level of following is a good sign that such a puppy will obey your commands. Not following displays an independent streak – a trait in conflict with easy and successful dog training.</p>	<p>1. Quick to follow, tail raised, crowded feet, nipped at feet. 2. Quick to follow, tail raised, crowded feet. 3. Quick to follow, tail raised. 4. Followed eagerly, tail lowered. 5. Hesitant to follow, tail lowered. 6. Didn’t bother following or simply moved away from tester.</p>
<p>3. Restraint: Get down and roll the puppy gently onto its back. Hold it there with one hand for</p>	<p>Measure of dominant or submissive nature. This indicates how the puppy (dog) will deal with</p>	<p>1. Struggled greatly, thrashed, nipped. 2. Struggled a lot, thrashed about.</p>

<p>30 seconds.</p>	<p>stressful situations in which it finds itself being socially (physically) dominated.</p>	<p>3. Relaxed, struggled, relaxed again with eye contact. 4. Struggled then relaxed. 5. No struggle whatsoever. 6. No struggle at all but strained to avoid eye contact.</p>
<p>4. Social Dominance: Allow the puppy to stand up. Crouch next to the puppy (without leaning or hovering over it) then gently stroke the puppy from its head to back. Ideally the puppy should be by your side facing the same direction.</p>	<p>Evaluates the extent to which a puppy will display social dominance traits & characteristics.</p>	<p>1. Growled, bit, jumped, pawed. 2. Jumped, pawed. 3. Snuggles up to tester's face and tries to lick it. 4. Writhe a bit, licks at hands. 5. Rolls over and licks at hand. 6. Simply moved away and stayed away!</p>
<p>5. Elevation Dominance: Crouch down then form a laced net with your fingers under the puppy's belly like a hammock with palms facing up. Next lift the puppy just off the ground so its legs are dangling.</p>	<p>Reflects willingness to accept being dominated whilst in a position of vulnerability and lack of control.</p>	<p>1. Struggled furiously, growled, bit. 2. Struggled fiercely. 3. Struggled a bit, relaxed, struggled again, settled. 4. Calm, doesn't struggle. 5. No struggle, body still. 6. Freezes.</p>
<p>6. Retrieving: Get the puppy's attention then toss a crumpled piece of paper about 1 – 2 meters ahead of it. Better results are obtained if you crouch down next to the</p>	<p>This reflects the level of willingness to obey commands. A puppy that retrieves readily is generally easy to train and makes for a good obedience dog.</p>	<p>1. Chases object, picks it up, then runs off. 2. Chases object, stands over it but doesn't return. 3. Chases object, picks it up & returns it to tester. 4. Chases object then</p>

<p>pup when throwing the object.</p>		<p>returns without it. 5. Initially chases object then loses interest. 6. Not interested in object at all.</p>
<p>7. Touch Sensitivity: Grasp the webbing of one of the puppy's front feet and apply gentle pressure (while slowly counting to 10) then increase pressure until the puppy squirms or pulls away. Stop when puppy begins to squirm or pulls away.</p>	<p>The measure of a puppy's sensitivity to touch. Useful in determining the type of equipment to use in training and what type of training method is best.</p>	<p>1. 8 – 10 seconds elapse before response. 2. 6 – 8 seconds elapse before response. 3. 5 – 6 seconds elapse before response. 4. 3 – 5 seconds elapse before response. 5. 2 – 3 seconds elapse before response. 6. 1 – 2 seconds elapse before response</p>
<p>8. Sound Sensitivity: Place the puppy in the middle of the test area. Tester or scorer makes a sudden sharp noise a few feet from pup.</p>	<p>Basic test to rule out deafness and measure of puppy's sensitivity to sound.</p>	<p>1. Listened to noise, pinpointed it, ran toward it barking. 2. Listened to noise, pinpointed it, walks towards it. 3. Listened to noise, pinpointed it, exhibits curiosity. 4. Listened to noise and pinpoints sound. 5. Winces at sound and shies away. 6. Ignores sound. Not curious at all!</p>
<p>9. Sight Sensitivity: Position puppy in center of test area. Now dangle</p>	<p>Measure of pup's excitement level to strange objects and its</p>	<p>1. Watches, attacks & bites object. 2. Looks, puts feet on</p>

<p>and jerk a towel attached to a string a few feet off from the puppy.</p>	<p>reaction to moving objects.</p>	<p>object & mouths it. 3. Looks with curiosity then makes effort to investigate with raised tail. 4. Looks, barks, tail tucked between legs. 5. Runs off to hide.</p>
<p>10. Stability: Suddenly open an umbrella a few feet from the puppy then gently place it on the ground.</p>	<p>Measure of the extent to which the puppy is agitated by a strange object; in other words its response.</p>	<p>1. Looked, ran, mouthed, then bit umbrella. 2. Looked, walked, investigated and sniffed umbrella. 3. Looked, investigated cautiously. 4. Watched while sitting, didn't approach. 5. Ran away from umbrella. 6. Not interested at all.</p>

Interpreting the Scores

Mainly 1's

This type of dog is very dominant and has a somewhat elevated tendency to aggression. It is quick to bite and certainly not recommended for households with kids. This dog is very difficult to train. This type of dog is best left to only the most experienced dog handlers. Needs lots of exercise, a ton of socialization and skillful training on a regularly basis.

Mainly 2's

Though not as aggressive as a dog with many 1's, this dog also bucks for dominance. With lots of confidence it isn't shy of biting. Difficult to train it will be constantly vying for the leadership position. Not for the inexperienced and not recommended for households with kids. Needs lots of exercise and skillful training conducted on a regularly basis.

HINT: Best to avoid puppies with lots of 1's and 2's. It will be a constant struggle to mould them into the well-behaved dog you desire!

Mainly 3's

This dog will accept your leadership willingly. It is good with kids, adapts well to new environments, as well as people and situations. Generally has a stable and even temperament though it has a tendency to be on the high-energy side of the spectrum. This type of dog is eager, willing and easy to train. It learns quickly and overall makes an ideal pet.

Mainly 4's

Not quite as outgoing and gregarious as a dog with 3's nonetheless despite a somewhat submissive nature this dog makes for an excellent pet. Easy to train, it rarely has an overabundance of energy, but is quick and eager to learn. Generally

it is great with kids and also excellent choice for the elder owners who no longer have the stamina needed to handle a high energy dog.

HINT: The dog with mainly 3's and 4's is the ideal choice for 1st time and 2nd time dog owners (more 4's better for 1st timer). Overall these are the best dogs to get assuming you're striving for a harmonious friction free relationship with your dog.

Mainly 5's

This type of dog is nervous, generally fearful and very submissive. It will have a tendency to run away at the slightest bit of stress. It requires skillful and special handling to build up its confidence. Despite its anxiety prone nature it is generally good around kids though they may contrastingly be a bit too much for it. It may also come with the habit of urinating on you whilst greeting you, say, on your return from work.

HINT: Not the best choice of dog if it can be avoided. However in an adequately ordered and structured environment these dogs make for sweet pets. A word of caution though, when cornered may be provoked into biting out of fear.

Mainly 6's

This dog literally screams INDEPENDENT. This dog likes his own company and it will be virtually impossible for anyone to build a relationship with such a dog. As for training...*well let's put it this way...*he does what he wants not what you want. When all is said and done it is best to avoid the puppy that comes flush with a high score of 6's.

SUMMARY

This guide shows in detail how easy it is to for a prospective dog owner to make an educated and informed choice on their selection of a puppy from any given litter.

Sure puppies are cute adorable bundles of fun but remember that one day that cute little bundle may morph into a 200lb giant (depends on breed of course).

And believe me it definitely won't be fun if you made the mistake of choosing the most dominant puppy (puppy that scored high on 1's and 2's) of a genetically large breed simply because it was the first pup to rush up to you ...*oh and it may not matter much that it bit at your fingers but just wait until he grows up!*

Conducting a careful puppy assessment test or puppy aptitude test (PAT) ensures you choose the right puppy; one that best compliments your personality and lifestyle. And this is important because that puppy will be your buddy anywhere from 10 – 14 years or longer. Wouldn't you want those years to cruise by harmoniously as opposed to being a constant struggle?

Finally remember that every dog breed has a genetic legacy and heritage that plays a significant part in defining the nature and character of the dog. But within that breed individuals are going to differ, some being aggressive, some being laid back and sweet whilst others simply adore being on their lonesome!

That is where the PAT comes into play...enabling you to make an educated choice on which puppy best suits you!

Resources

- A. [Puppy Potty Training](#)
- B. [Increase Your Dog's Lifespan With This Healthy Natural Diet Guide](#)
- C. [Step-by-Step Puppy & Dog Training](#)
- D. [How To Become A Dog Trainer](#)
- E. [Easily House Train Your Puppy](#)
- F. [Clicker Training Secrets Revealed](#)
- G. [Choosing The Right Dog Breed For Your Family](#)
- H. [How To Easily Build A Fully Insulated & Customized Great Looking Dog House](#)