

DELTA SOCIETY

Pet Partners® Team Evaluation

Volunteer Orientation Package

PET PARTNERS® TEAM EVALUATION

Volunteer Orientation Package

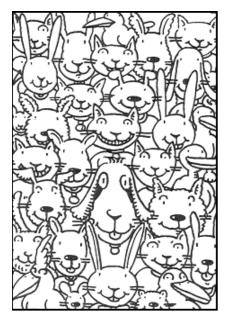
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© Delta Society
580 Naches Ave SW • Suite 101
Renton, WA 98055-2297
Phone 425.917.1115 • Fax 425.235.1076
Website www.deltasociety.org http://www.deltasociety.org

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Overview of Tests	1
Pet Partners Skills Test (PPST)	1
Pet Partners Aptitude Test (PPAT)	2
And Now a Word about Consistency	2
Preparing for the Test	2
Processes and Procedures	2
Policies	3
Protecting Yourself, Other People, the	
Animal being Evaluated, and Other Anim	als
Basic Precautions	3
Observing the Animal	4
Other Characteristics to Note	5
Postural Signal and Behavior	5
Aggression	5
Play	5
Fear	6
Behavior is Fluid	6
Touching the Animal	6
How to Approach an Animal	6
Pet Partners® Team Evaluation Score	
Sheet	7

Introduction



The Delta team tanks you for volunteering to help with the Pet Partners® Team Evaluation.

The Evaluator running the test will meet with the volunteers before the test is scheduled to start. Bring any questions you have about the information in this package or the test.

If you and your animal will be evaluated, make sure you have safe place to keep the animal while you're working.

This package is given to volunteers assisting with the Pet Partners Team Evaluation. Your comments are invited.

Overview of Tests

The Pet Partners Team Evaluation has two tests:

- Pet Partners Skills Test (PPST)
- Pet Partners Aptitude Test (PPAT)

The tests are applied to and adapted for all animals.

The two-step process is important to make sure that animals have the training necessary to ensure that they are controllable and have the aptitude necessary to remain predictable and reliable in a variety of situations and settings. The handler must also demonstrate social skills and aptitude for working with a variety of people in different settings. In addition, these test how the **team's** ability to work well together in visiting animal programs.

Pet Partners Skills Test (PPST)

The PPST makes sure the animal is controllable and the team possesses the basic skills required for AAA/T. Not every team can participate in AAA/T.

For example, if you were running a hospital, would you want dogs making visits in your hospital that pull at the leash, jump up on people, and bark?

This test is based on the American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizenship test, with modifications for visiting situations and for other animals.

Pet Partners Aptitude Test (PPAT)

The PPAT ensures the teams are:

- Reliable
- Predictable
- Inspire confidence in people being visited
- Suitable to the task

The PPAT also evaluates the handler's comfort in working in various kinds of visiting situations. **Teamwork** is vital to successful AAA/T interactions.

Not every animal wants to participate in AAA/T, no matter how much its handler wants it to. The PPAT provides evaluators with information about the team's aptitude for AAA/T.

... And Now a Word about Consistency

With all the different programs that certify teams, there must be consistency in how teams are evaluated to be Pet Partners. The Pet Partners evaluation is based on and consistent with Delta Society's *Standard of Practice for Animal-Assisted Activities and Therapy*.

Preparing for the Test

Processes and Procedures

The specific processes and procedures to be used for the test will be covered at a meeting before the test. A sample Pet Partners® Team Evaluation Score Sheet has been included at the end of this document.

Policies

These are some general policies you need to be aware of and follow.

- The testing of the animal/handler teams starts as they enter the test area and doesn't stop until they leave.
- If, before or after a handler/animal team has been evaluated, you observe what you feel to be inappropriate or questionable behavior by that handler and/or animal, note which handler/animal has exhibited the behavior and notify the Evaluator as soon as possible.
- The Team Evaluator and the persons s/he designates are responsible for the evaluation of animals for the Pet Partners Program. The decisions of the Evaluator are final.

Protecting Yourself, Other People, the Animal being Evaluated, and Other Animals

The processes, procedures, and policies followed during the evaluation provide a high level of protection for everyone involved in the test. This section identifies the steps the evaluator will take and what you can do to help maintain this level of protection.

Basic Precautions

Team Evaluators are trained and certified by Delta Society and have extensive experience with dogs and other animals. They recognize signs of aggression and potential problems and may be able to prevent problems.

Dogs and other animals used during the test have been previously evaluated for the appropriate temperament.

Before testing, the participants sign the necessary forms to release you and Delta Society from liability.

If an animal or handler exhibits questionable reactions, don't take any chances. Notify the Evaluator.

• For example, some dog breeds may make low, rumbling noises as you pick up their paws or handle them. If you are uncomfortable, don't be intimidated by an owner who says, "He's talking to you."

- If an animal appears shy, aggressive, out of control, or fearful, the animal will not be forced into continuing the test. The test will be stopped and, as gracefully as possible, the handler will be told that more work must be done.
- If a handler acts in an unprofessional or unkind way toward animals or people, notify the Evaluator.

When in doubt, the Evaluator makes conservative decision:

It is mush better to make an error on the side of caution than to risk an accident

during the test or later in a therapy visit.

Delta requires owner to present copies of rabies certificates. Some owners will ask Evaluators to "trust them" when they show up without the required proof. For the safety of all animals and individuals involved in the testing, it is critical that owners show proof before taking the test.

Observing the Animal

The ability to notice the smallest behavioral nuance, discreet changes in posture or expression, and the ability respond to these signals is the hallmark of safe versus risky evaluations, and adequate versus exceptional evaluations. Begin to develop a mental checklist to ensure that you note:

- Postural signals/stance e.g., how the ears and tail are held, where its center of balance is, how erect it is
- Response to sounds e.g., ignores, startles and recovers, trembles
- Changes in activity level e.g., high to low
- Piloerectoin (i.e., hair standing on end) e.g., which part of its coat is erect, if any
- Eye contact e.g., avoids, staring, eyes closed
- Facial expression e.g., tight versus relaxed mouth, smiling, furrowed brow
- Verbalizations e.g., whining, barking, sighing, growling

Other Characteristics to Note

- Age e.g., geriatric, adolescent
- Sexual status e.g., intact, neutered/spayed
- Health problems e.g., chronic illness, level of pain, disabilities, managed illness
- Maturity level e.g., well-socialized versus not socialized

Postural Signal and Behavior

If an animal exhibits behaviors once or twice, do not assume that animal is stressed, afraid, etc. The animal should exhibit clusters of responses before you can be sure of the animal's condition. The majority of the characteristics that follow apply to dogs.

Certain postural signals or body language are associated with specific types of behavior. Vocalizations and facial expression (for animals that have this ability) add to the picture of specific behaviors. For example:

Aggression

- Erect hair
- Deep growling or other low pitched loud vocalizations
- Direct, fixed stare
- Erect, forward posture
- Tight mouth

Play

- Indirect eye contact
- Ears alert, moving or head moving
- Face alert
- Posture bouncing, head lowered
- High pitched vocalizations

Fear

- Body crouched or hunched
- Head down
- No eye contact
- High, singsong vocalizations

Behavior is Fluid

Behavior does not, however, skip from aggression to play to fear and back. Behavior is fluid, and postural signals or body language blends like a dance as the animal interacts with the changing environment. Many of these signals are very subtle or seem to occur out of context.

Touching the Animal

When the animal is handled, its body also communicates its feelings. A relaxed, soft body is desired. Animals that are tense, have a hard body, a clenched jaw, or are trembling may not be appropriate for AAA/T.

How to Approach an Animal

How you approach an animal will be species – and breed – specific. At a minimum, follow these recommendations:

- Posture Use a natural posture.
- Tone of voice Talk using a tender, singsong, high, friendly, natural tone of voice.
- Angle of approach Don't walk straight in to the animal. Come in at a slight angle to the side.
- Movements and gestures Do not use any quick movements or stiff gestures.
- Clothing Do not wear dangling items. Wear neutral clothing and a minimum of jewelry.

Pet Partners® Team Evaluation Score Sheet

Attached are the Pet Partners Skills and Aptitude Tests score sheets used during evaluations.

Pet Partners® Team Evaluation Score Sheet - PPST

Handler: Animal:				
	(Name, Species, and Breed)			
Date: Very Small Dog? Y N (put "C" next to exercises for which dog was carried)				
Handler	Animal			
() Exercise 1: Review Handler's Questionnaire	Team: (not scored for this exercise)			
Comments:	Comments:			
() Exercise 2: Accepting a Friendly Stranger	Team: NA NR 1 2 *			
2 proactive smooth good interactions relaxed 1 some proactive OK interactions some stress NR reactive/inactive unnecessary cues stressed few or inappropriate interactions Comments:	2			
() Exercise 3: Accepting Petting	Team: NA NR 1 2			
2 proactive smooth good interactions relaxed 1 some proactive OK interactions some stress NR reactive/inactive unnecessary cues stressed few or inappropriate interactions Comments:	2			
() Exercise 4: Appearance and Grooming	Team: NA NR 1 2 .			
2 proactive smooth good interactions relaxed very appropriate appearance 1 some proactive OK interactions some stress NR reactive/inactive unnecessary cues stressed few or inappropriate interactions not OL appearance.	2			
() Exercise 5: Out for a Walk (all dogs must walk on	Team: NA NR 1 2 �			
2 proactive smooth good interactions relaxed 1 some proactive OK interactions some stress NR reactive/inactive unnecessary cues stressed few or inappropriate interactions Comments:	2			
() Exercise 6: Walking through a Crowd	Team: NA NR 1 2 ❖			
2 proactive smooth good interactions relaxed 1 some proactive OK interactions some stress NR reactive/inactive unnecessary cues stressed few or inappropriate interactions Comments:	2			
❖ Team must score no less than "2" on each of these exercise	es to be eligible for Complex Environment Qualification.			

() Exercise 7: Reaction to Distractions	Team: NA NR 1 2
2 proactive smooth good interactions relaxed	2 relaxed smooth loose lead no, little reaction
1 some proactive OK interactions some stress	recovers quickly
NR reactive/inactive unnecessary cues stressed	1 some stress some fear, recovers some displacement
few or inappropriate interactions	some tight lead distracted by crowd
Comments:	some startle, recovers quickly
	NR stressed fearful approached shield away tigl
	displacement clusters startles, doesn't recover
	Comments:
() Exercise 8: Sit on Cue or Pass between Strange	Team: NA NR 1 2
2 proactive smooth good interactions relaxed	2 relaxed smooth seeks, enjoys interactions
1 some proactive OK interactions some stress	sat on initial cue
NR reactive/inactive unnecessary cues stressed	1 some stress some fear, recovers some displaceme
few or inappropriate interactions	multiple cues sometimes enjoys interactions
Comments:	NR stressed fearful avoids, tolerates interactions
	displacement clusters didn't sit did not stay in laps
	Comments:
() Exercise 9: Down on Cue (Skip for cats & carried dog	Team: NA NR 1 2
2 proactive smooth good interactions relaxed	2 relaxed smooth down on initial cue
1 some proactive OK interactions some stress	1 some stress some fear, recovers some displaceme
NR reactive/inactive unnecessary cues stressed	multiple cues
few or inappropriate interactions	NR stressed fearful displacement clusters didn't do
Comments:	Comments:
() Exercise 10. Stay in Place	Toom NA ND 1 2 A
() Exercise 10: Stay in Place	Team: NA NR 1 2 💠
2 proactive smooth good interactions relaxed	2 relaxed smooth enjoys interactions
2 proactive smooth good interactions relaxed 1 some proactive OK interactions some stress	2
2 proactive smooth good interactions relaxed 1 some proactive OK interactions some stress NR reactive/inactive unnecessary cues stressed	2
2 proactive smooth good interactions relaxed 1 some proactive OK interactions some stress NR reactive/inactive unnecessary cues stressed few or inappropriate interactions	2
2 proactive smooth good interactions relaxed 1 some proactive OK interactions some stress NR reactive/inactive unnecessary cues stressed	2
2 proactive smooth good interactions relaxed 1 some proactive OK interactions some stress NR reactive/inactive unnecessary cues stressed few or inappropriate interactions	2
2 proactive smooth good interactions relaxed 1 some proactive OK interactions some stress NR reactive/inactive unnecessary cues stressed few or inappropriate interactions Comments:	2
2 proactive smooth good interactions relaxed 1 some proactive OK interactions some stress NR reactive/inactive unnecessary cues stressed few or inappropriate interactions Comments: () Exercise 11: Come when Called (All dogs, dogs only	2
2	2
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2	2

❖ Team must score no less than "2" on each of these exercises to be eligible for Complex Environment Qualification.

Pet Partners® Team Evaluation Score Sheet - PPAT

Handler: Animal:		
	(Name, Species, and Breed)	
Handler	Animal	
() Exercise A: Overall Exam 2	Team: NA NR 1 2 ❖ 2 □ relaxed □ smooth □ seeks, enjoys interactions 1 □ some stress □ some fear, recovers □ some displaceme □ some extra guidance □ sometimes enjoys interactions NR □ stressed □ fearful □ avoids, tolerates interactions □ displacement clusters □ too sensitive to touch Comments:	
() Exercise B: Exuberant and Clumsy Petting	Team: NA NR 1 2 *	
2 proactive smooth good interactions relaxed 1 some proactive some role plays some stress NR reactive/inactive unnecessary cues no role play stressed Comments:	2	
() Exercise C: Restraining Hug	Team: NA NR 1 2 �	
2 proactive smooth good interactions relaxed 1 some proactive some role plays no role play NR reactive/inactive unnecessary cues no role play stressed Comments:	2	
() Exercise D: Staggering, Gesturing Individual	Team: NA NR 1 2	
2	2	
() Exercise E: Angry Yelling	Team: NA NR 1 2	
2 proactive smooth good interactions relaxed 1 some proactive some role plays nome stress startles, recovers NR reactive/inactive unnecessary cues no role play stressed Comments:	2	
() Exercise F: Bumped from Behind	Team: NA NR 1 2	
2 proactive smooth good interactions relaxed 1 some proactive some role plays some stress startles, recovers NR reactive/inactive unnecessary cues no role play stressed Comments:	2	
❖ Team must score no less than "2" on each of these exercise	es to be eligible for Complex Environment Qualification.	

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Handler	Animal		
() Exercise G: Crowded & Petted by Several Peop	Team: NA NR 1 2 �		
2	2		
2 proactive smooth good interactions relaxed 1 some proactive some role plays no role play NR reactive/inactive unnecessary cues no role play stressed Comments:	2		
() Exercise I: Offered a Treat 2	Team: NA NR 1 2 2		
() Exercise J: Overall Assessment	Team: NA NR 1 2 *		
2 proactive smooth relaxed 1 some proactive some stress NR reactive/inactive unnecessary cues stressed Comments:	Not Applicable		
Overall Qualification: Not Appropriate for Visiting Not Ready Predictable Complex Recommended Special Qualifications: one-on-one work only routinely predictable interactions clients that are not medically fragile visit alone, not in a group low activity/few distractions no brushing or grooming during visit must wear halter while visiting must be carried while visiting Other: Overall Comments:			
Results Reviewed with Handler:(The handler's signature above only acknowledges that the evhandler agrees with the results).	Date: raluator has reviewed these results with the handler, not that the		
Evaluator Signature:	Evaluator ID:		
❖ Team must score no less than "2" on each of these exercises to be eligible for Complex Environment Qualification.			