



## THERAPEUTIC PAWS OF CANADA THERAPY DOG EVALUATION

Handler's Name: _____	Team: _____		
Address: _____	Tel: _____		
Dog's name: _____	Breed: _____	Spayed/Neutered/Intact: ___	Age: _____
Vac. Cert. valid until: _____	Verified by: _____		
Venue: _____	Date: _____		
Evaluator _____			
Fee collected: \$ _____	Pick up bag in handler's pocket: Y / N		

The team is under observation from the time it enters the test area. A clean tidy appearance is expected from both the handler and dog, as they will be the ambassadors for the program. A dog that relieves itself during the evaluation has failed. A dog displaying any signs of aggression to other dogs or humans (i.e. continuous barking, snarling, snapping, growling, lunging, showing teeth) has failed. A dog with a bite history may not participate. A handler seen harshly correcting his dog is an automatic failure. A handler seen not following poop/scoop rule will fail.

During the evaluation and on all visits the dog must wear a flat buckle or snap collar and be on a 4' or 6' leather or nylon web leash. No promise collars, prong collars, harnesses, haltis or choke chains permitted. Dog must be a minimum of one year of age. The dog should always be close to the handler. At no time should the dog be allowed to extend the leash to the fullest. Handlers may talk to their dog and pet them in every category but may not use food to lure the dog during any of the categories. Dogs weighing 15 lbs. and under will have to do certain sections of the evaluation on the floor.

The Evaluator will read out loud each category to the applicants

### INTRODUCING TEAM TO EVALUATOR:

PASS \_\_\_\_\_ FAIL \_\_\_\_\_

#1 While the Evaluator is standing in the center of the evaluation area, with their back to the team, the team will approach quietly and introduce themselves to the Evaluator. The dog must not jump on Evaluator but remain quiet (either standing or sitting) while the handler and Evaluator exchange a few pleasantries. This category demonstrates the handler's social skills.

The Evaluator will ask permission to examine the dog (handler's refusal is a failure). The Evaluator will examine the dog looking for a calm, stable attitude and good grooming. The Evaluator will pat the dog's head, gently fondle the ears, stroke the dog's body and tail, lift both front paws and check that nails are short and filed smooth. Small dogs that would normally be lifted up to visit and/or those normally carried weighing less than fifteen (15) pounds will be placed on a table for this examination.

At no time should the dog display shyness or resentment to being touched. A *slight leaning* away or movement away will not be taken as shyness as this is a natural tendency for some breeds. The Evaluator will not stare at the dog but should monitor the dog's reactions for signs of discomfort or distress at being handled. Any growling, snarling or cowering is a failure. A dog that is unduly stressed by the Evaluator touching him has failed.

### WALKING AS A THERAPY DOG

PASS \_\_\_\_\_ FAIL \_\_\_\_\_

#2 The Evaluator will demonstrate a specific course for the team to walk. The pattern will include a right and left hand turn as well as an about turn with at least one stop in the middle and another at the end of the course. The dog must walk in a controlled mannerly fashion while on a loose leash. The handler may talk to his dog to encourage him to stay close. The dog does not have to sit at each stop but should stop and remain reasonably close to the handler. A plate of cookies (**not dog cookies**) is placed on a chair or table to gauge the handler's control over the dog passing a "cookie trolley" in facilities. The handler must exhibit control over their dog without resorting to physical corrections.

### MILLING CROWD

PASS \_\_\_\_\_ FAIL \_\_\_\_\_

#3 The team moves about politely among the moving pedestrian traffic with the dog on a short leash. The handler may talk to his dog to encourage the dog to stay close and move smartly. The dog should display confidence and may show interest in the pedestrian movement but should not interfere with their movement. If the dog displays shyness, anxiety, pushes into the people or jumps up it shall fail.

**Note: The Team will complete #4 and #5 when called up**

**PATIENTLY ACCEPTING PETTING**

**PASS \_\_\_\_\_ FAIL \_\_\_\_\_**

#4 With the dog in a standing or sitting position beside the handler the Evaluator will approach and ask, "May I pet your dog"? The Evaluator will **bend over** the dog to pet it (lightly tapping the head and hip area) and then walk in a tight circle around the team appropriate to the size of the dog and return to the front and pet briefly one more time. The dog should not show more than mild interest in the movement of the Evaluator. Any indication of aggression such as growling, lifting of the lip, **JUMPING** to a stand or spinning to follow the Evaluator is a failure.

**PRAISE/INTERACTION**

**PASS \_\_\_\_\_ FAIL \_\_\_\_\_**

#5 The dog should be easily calmed by the handler after a short play or praise period. The handler may use verbal praise, petting, playing with a toy and/or favourite trick in the allotted time frame and then calm the dog upon a signal from the Evaluator. Failure would occur if the dog ignores the handlers command and does not calm down but continues to demand that the playing continue.

**Note:** The dog will not fail if it does not become excited as many dogs simply have a laid back attitude.

**REACTION TO OTHER DOGS**

**PASS \_\_\_\_\_ FAIL \_\_\_\_\_**

#6 A test area of **not less than eight (8) feet square in size** will be marked out with four numbers. Four handlers will approach a predetermined number with their dog on a **short** lead and have the dog sit on the handler's left side. The Evaluator will ask two teams opposite each other to walk forward – halt, shake hands and introduce themselves. The handlers are facing each other at arms length. Upon instruction from the Evaluator the teams will pass each other with dogs passing side by side to the numbered spot in front of them, turn and halt. The other two teams upon instruction from the Evaluator will repeat this sequence as the other teams quietly watch. The handler may talk to his dog. The dog should move alongside his handler in a mannerly fashion. If a dog lunges, snaps, growls or displays any aggression to another dog or another handler it would fail. The Evaluator will closely monitor the interaction and should expect the team to be polite and courteous. A dog exhibiting friendly curiosity as other teams pass will not fail.

**Dog will complete #7, #8 and #9 when called up.**

**DOG VISITING STATIONARY CROWD**

**PASS \_\_\_\_\_ FAIL \_\_\_\_\_**

#7 A group of four to five people using canes, walkers or crutches form a circle. One person should wear a baseball hat. One of the crowd should be a child approximately 12 years of age (or an adult kneeling) holding a soft fuzzy toy under their arm/between their knees where the dog can easily get it. The team will walk around inside the circle with the dog closest to the crowd. The team will complete the circle twice. The first time around will simulate a first visit. The 2<sup>nd</sup> time around should be like the team is returning for a second visit. People with equipment may move slightly the equipment on the second circuit. Dogs less than 15 pounds may be carried but should also be closest to the people to allow petting. If the dog takes the fuzzy toy it must relinquish it immediately upon command of the handler or will fail the test. The person holding the fuzzy toy must not tease or tempt the dog to take the toy. The Evaluator will be looking at the dog's level of interest and also the handler's ability to interact appropriately with the people they are visiting. There should be a marked improvement in the 2nd visit.

#8 With the group still in the circle the team is asked to step away and turn their back to the circle. A volunteer that has not yet interacted with the teams will join the circle wearing a full length dressing gown and will stand motionless with head bowed staring at the floor and very softly mumble. The team returns to the center of the circle about 3 feet from Alzheimer patient and waits for the Evaluator to tell them to advance to greet the Alzheimer patient. The dog may sit, stand or down. The Evaluator will advise the Alzheimer volunteer when to pet with a slight hand tremor, for approximately 10 seconds, then the Alzheimer's Volunteer will praise the dog to end on a positive note.

#9 The team returns to the center of the circle. The dog will sit beside handler facing the Evaluator. Upon a signal from the Evaluator the crowd will advance in unison with one arm stretched out and the fist closed. The crowd will call the dog's name and greet it in a friendly manner. If the handler deliberately blocks contact between the dog and any person in the circle this would be a failure.

**NOTE: The team will complete #10, #11, and #12 when called up.**

The Evaluator will explain the category to all participants and then ask them to wait outside the Evaluation room until they are called for their turn, one at a time. The dog may be startled by the noise distractions and the excited child visitor but should regain composure. Any display of aggression or fear would be a failure.

**WHEELCHAIR VISIT AND DISTRACTIONS**

**PASS \_\_\_\_\_ FAIL \_\_\_\_\_**

#10 Sitting in a wheelchair the Evaluator will approach the sitting dog and handler from behind. When approaching the team the Evaluator will use an excited manner and ask to pet the dog. A dog 15 pounds or less will be placed in the Evaluator's lap (handler will keep hold of leash) – refusal to place dog on the Evaluator's lap would be a failure. When evaluating a large breed, the evaluator will

place their arm over the withers in a relaxed manner while gauging the dog for shyness, resentment or aggression that would result in a failure.

#11 The Evaluator will ask the handler if they may give the dog a treat – the handler's refusal would be a failure. The handler may supply the dog treat and tell their dog to take it gently. The Evaluator will **firmly hold** the treat while offering it to the dog to ensure the dog takes it gently and displays patience. The dog may refuse the treat – this refusal IS NOT A FAILURE. If the dog does not take the treat gently and/or snaps or lunges for the treat it would be considered a failure.

#12 While the Evaluator is in the wheelchair petting the dog

- a/ another assistant will drop one of the following approximately six feet behind the dog –
  - bag of empty cans (assorted sizes for optimum noise)
  - stainless steel bowl
  - push over a chair (folding metal preferred)
- b/ the evaluator will put their finger through the dog's collar as a precaution while a child or assistant acting like an excited child **runs** up to Evaluator **but on the opposite side that dog is sitting** and **excitedly** tell them of something wonderful they just saw. The dog should show interest and mild excitement but any lunging, jumping towards child or any signs of aggression would be a failure. Dog should then be allowed to visit this person to end on a positive note.

REMINDER: all applicants and non-TPOC volunteers participating in the Evaluation must sign a waiver, these waivers remain with the Evaluator and their files.

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