VOLHARD PUPPY APTITUDE TEST

TEST	SCORE		A t I a s	J u p i t e r	M a r s	M e r c u r y	P l u t o	T i t a n	E u r o p a	M i r a n d a	R h e a	V e n u s
SOCIAL ATTRACTION	Came readily, tail up, jumped, bit at hands.	1										
Place puppy in test area about four feet from the tester. Tester kneels, leans backwards and coaxes the pup to her/him by clapping hands	Came readily, tail up, pawed, licked at hands.	2										
gently.	Came readily, tail up.	3	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Shows degree of social attraction to people, confidence, or dependence, pack drive.	Came readily, tail down.	4										
	Came hesitantly, tail down.	5										
	Didn't Come At All.	6										
FOLLOWING	Followed readily, tail up, got underfoot, bit at feet.	1										
The tester stands up and slowly walks away encouraging the puppy to follow. Make sure the pup sees you walk away. Coax puppy to follow by talking to it and attracting its attention. Shows willingness to follow a person. Pack Drive	Followed readily, tail up, got underfoot.	2										
	Followed readily, tail up.	3	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Followed readily, tail down.	4										
	Followed hesitantly, tail down.	5										
	Did not follow or went away.	6										
RESTRAINT	Struggled fiercely, flailed, bit.	1										
The tester crouches down and gently rolls the pup on its back and holds it down with light pressure with one hand for 30 seconds.	Struggled fiercely, flailed.	2										
Degree of dominance or submissive tendency, and ease of handling in	Settled, struggled, settled with some eye contact. *	3	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
difficult situations.	Struggled then settled. **	4										
Fight or Flight Drive *My dogs that scored a 3 were actually comfortable in this position. Very relaxed—it looked like they received it as a sign of love from the human. Response was: no struggle, made eye contact and either went to sleep or waited for me to pet them—no fear, 100% trust from all.	No struggle, no eye contact.	5										
	No struggle, straining to avoid eye contact.	6										
SOCIAL DOMINANCE	Jumped, pawed, bit, growled.	1										
Puppy sits or stands on crouching tester's left side and tester gently strokes it from the head to the back. Continue stroking until a recognizable behavior is established. Degree of acceptance of social dominance by a person. Pack Drive *Again, my dogs were content to sit by my side. After 2 minutes each I realized that this was a comfortable position and was a sign of devotion to the human. **These puppies tried to get in a position where they could crawl	Jumped, pawed.	2										
	Cuddled up to tester and tried to lick face. *	3	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Squirmed, licked at hands.	4										
	Rolled over, licked at hands.	5										
up onto the tester. Because they were forced to stay, they resisted—but only so they could get on the tester.	Went away and stayed away.	6										

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TEST	SCORE		A t I a s	J u p i t e r	M a r s	M e r c u r y	P l u t o	T i t a n	E u r o p a	M i r a n d a	R h e a	V e n u s
ELEVATION DOMINANCE	Struggled fiercely, tried to bite.	1										
The tester cradles the pup under its chest, with both hands, fingers interlaced, palms up and gently lifts it two feet off the ground and holds	Struggled fiercely.	2										
it there for 30 seconds. Degree of accepting dominance while in position of no control.	Struggled, settled. Struggled settled.	3	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Fight or Flight Drive	No struggle, relaxed.*	4										
*This was a comfortable position for all these dogs. They made eye contact and accepted it as part of human interaction.	No struggle, body stiff	5										
	No struggle, froze.	6										
RETRIEVING	Chased object, picked it up and ran away.	1										
The tester crouches beside the pup and attracts it's attention with a crumpled up piece of paper. When the pup shows some interest, the tester tosses the paper no more than four feet in front of the pup, encouraging it to retrieve the paper.	Chased object, stood over it, and did not return.	2										
	Chased object and returned with it to the tester.	3	X			X						X
Degree of willingness to do something for you. Together with social	Chased object and returned without it to tester.	4		X				X	X		X	
attraction and following, a key indicator for ease or difficulty in training.	Started to chase object, lost interest.	5			X		X			X		
Prey Drive.	Did not chase object.	6										
TOUCH SENSITIVITY	8-10 counts before response.	1										
The tester locates the webbing of one of the puppy's front paws and presses it lightly between his index finger and thumb. The tester gradually increases pressure while counting to 10 and stops the pressure when the puppy pulls away or shows discomfort.	6-7 counts before response.	2			X				X		X	X
	5-6 counts before response.	3	X	X		X						
Do not use fingernails!	2-4 counts before response.	4					X	X				
Degree of sensitivity to touch and a key indicator to the type of training equipment required.	2-3 counts before response.	5								X		
SOUND SENSITIVITY	Listened, located sound, walked toward it barking.	1										
The puppy is placed in the center of the testing area and an assistant stationed at the perimeter makes a sharp noise, such as banging a	Listened, located sound, barked.	2										
metal spoon on the bottom of a metal pan.	Listened, located sound, showed curiosity and walked toward sound *	3				X						
Degree of sensitivity to sounds. (Also a rudimentary test for deafness)	Listened, located the sound.	4	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Prey Drive *We condition our dogs to sounds. All the dogs heard the sound,	Cringed, backed off, hid.	5										
and either came right to it to examine it or ignored it because there were more interesting things to explore.	Ignored sound, showed no curiosity.	6										

TEST	SCORE		A t I a s	J u p i t e r	M a r s	M e r c u r y	P l u t o	T i t a n	E u r o p a	M i r a n d a	R h e a	V e n u s
SIGHT SENSITIVITY	Looked, attacked and bit.	1										
The puppy is placed in the center of the testing area. The tester ties a string around a bath towel and jerks it across the floor two feet away from the puppy. Degree of response to a moving object, such as chasing bicycles, children or squirrels.	Looked, barked and tail up.	2										
	Looked curiously, attempted to investigate.	3	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Looked, barked, tail-tuck.*	4										
Prey Drive. *Two puppies saw the movement but went to the source (they went right to the tester for petting) They were not interested in the towel at this point. They did not bark.	Ran away, hid.	5										
STABILITY	Looked and ran to the umbrella, mouthing or biting it.	1										
An umbrella is opened about five feet from the puppy and gently placed on the ground.	Looked and walked to the umbrella, smelling it cautiously.	2										
Degree of startle response to a strange object. Fight and Flight Drive.	Looked and went to investigate.	3		X		X	X	X	X		X	X
	Sat and looked, but did not move toward the umbrella.	4	X		X					X		
	Ran away from the umbrella.	5										
	Showed no interest.	6										
Structure **Rhea has an overbite.	The puppy is correct in structure.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
	The puppy has a slight fault or deviation.										X	
	The puppy has an extreme fault or deviation.											

SEE FOLLOWING PAGE FOR INTERPRETATION

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INTERPRETING THE SCORES

Mostly 1's

A puppy that consistently scores a 1 in the temperament section of the test is an extremely dominant, aggressive puppy who can easily be provoked to bite. This puppy is high in Fight Drive. His dominant nature will attempt to resist human leadership, thus requiring only the most experienced of handlers. This puppy is a poor choice for most individuals and will do best in a working situation as a guard or police dog.

Mostly 2's

This pup is dominant and self-assured, also high in Fight Drive. He can be provoked to bite; however, he readily accepts human leadership that is firm, consistent and knowledgeable. This is not a dog for a tentative, indecisive individual. In the right hands, he has the potential to become a fine working or show dog and could fit into an adult household, provided the owners know what they are doing.

Mostly 3's

This pup is outgoing and friendly and will adjust well in situations in which he receives regular training and exercise. High in Pack Drive, he has a flexible temperament that adapts well to different types of environment, provided he is handled correctly. May be too much dog for a family with small children or an elderly couple who are sedentary.

Mostly 4's

A pup that scores a majority of 4's is an easily controlled, adaptable puppy whose submissive nature and high Pack Drive will make him continually look to his master for leadership. This pup is easy to train, reliable with kids, and, though he lacks self-confidence, makes a wonderful family pet. He is usually less outgoing than a pup scoring in the 3's, but his demeanor is gentle and affectionate.

Mostly 5's

This is a pup who is extremely submissive, high in Flight Drive and lacking in self-confidence. He bonds very closely with his owner and requires regular companionship and encouragement to bring him out of himself. If handled incorrectly, this pup will grow up very shy and fearful. For this reason, he will do best in a predictable, structured lifestyle with owners who are patient and not overly demanding, such as an elderly couple.

Mostly 6's

A puppy that scores 6 consistently is independent, low in Pack Drive and uninterested in people. He will mature into a dog who is not demonstrably affectionate and who has a low need for human companionship. In general, it is rare to see properly socialized pups test this way; however, there are several breeds that have been bred for specific tasks (such as basenjis, hounds, and some northern breeds) which can exhibit this level of independence. To perform as intended, these dogs require a singularity of purpose that is not compromised by strong attachments to their owner.