

Puppy Behavior Evaluation Form (4 months and under)

Date _____ Puppy's Name / ID # _____
 Sex _____ Age _____ Breed _____ History _____
 Evaluator _____ Observer/scribe _____

**** RESPONSES IN BOLD ITALICS INDICATE SEVERE RED-FLAG BEHAVIOR THAT MAY RULE THE PUPPY OUT FOR ADOPTION**

Sociability Test - Take the puppy to the evaluation room.

- While seated on the floor - totally ignore the puppy for 60 seconds – watch the pup so that if he looks up at you, you can give him soft solicitous eye contact
 - _____ came over to you in excited manner – jumping all over you
 - _____ came over in calm manner and climbed in your lap
 - _____ sat quietly next to you
 - _____ completely ignored you (more interested in the environment)
- Stroke the puppy from neck to tail slowly – repeat 3 times waiting 5 seconds in between strokes (you can check more than one item)

	1	2	3
stayed in place			
moved closer to you			
moved away from you			
solicited more interaction - calmly			
solicited more interaction – hyper/excitedly			
<i>completely ignored you</i>			
<i>exhibited signs of uneasiness (shake off, whipped head, stiffened, growled)</i> (write in what dog did)			

- Remain seated on the floor and talk solicitously and pet the puppy for a full 20 seconds
 - _____ responded with friendly attention
 - _____ jumped on you in an excited manner
 - _____ ***completely ignored you***

Teeth Exam. While still sitting on the floor, take hold of the puppy calmly and attempt to lift his upper lips and attempt to hold them in that position for 5 seconds. Repeat this action 5 times in a row. Do not force the puppy to accept this – release if he begins to struggle. Talk to the puppy the whole time but do NOT pet in between teeth checks.

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Allows 5 seconds without struggle					
Struggles slightly but allows all 5 seconds					
Struggles - allows shorter time (indicate time)					
<i>Struggles fiercely – doesn't allow any time</i>					
<i>Stiffens, whale eye, whips head, air snaps</i>					
<i>Froze, growled, snarled, snapped, bit</i>					

Handling Test - Handle the puppy as described below while in the same position as you were during the teeth exam. Use the following scale to rate the pup's reaction to each handling exercise (record #)

- 1 – remains calm, allows handling
- 2 – uncomfortable with handling - tenses up, turns head towards hand, resists by pulling away
- 3 – *stiffens, whips around towards your hand, gives whale eye (indicate response)*
- 4 – *freezes, growls, snarls, snaps, bites (indicate response)*

	#	response
a. stroke his far side	_____	_____
b. run hand down his back leg and pick up hind foot	_____	_____
c. run hand down dog's tail and tug slightly	_____	_____
d. touch and look inside both ears	_____	_____
e. apply slight pressure to the pup's shoulders	_____	_____
f. wipe body with a towel	_____	_____
g. pick up and hug the puppy for 30 seconds	_____	_____
h. lay puppy on his back between your outstretched legs for 30 seconds	_____	_____

Play Test - Initiate play with the puppy (toys, balls, rope toy)

- _____ nice level of play
- _____ became fearful (ears back, tail tucked) and moved away
- _____ did not show any interest in playing
- _____ became highly aroused but calmed down quickly once play ended
- _____ *became overly aroused or aggressive*

Food Bowl Test – Give the puppy a bowl of food.

STEP #1 - Once the puppy is eating, use the assess-a-hand to first pet his back, then reach toward the bowl and pull it out of his reach. Wait one second and then give the bowl back.

STEP #2 – Once the pup is eating again – approach and reach in and play with the kibble a bit.

STEP #3 – Approach again and reach into the bowl and try to nudge the pup's face out.

BEHAVIORAL RESPONSE	STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3
stopped eating and backed away from the dish			
continued to eat but did not show any signs of uneasiness			
moved muzzle deeper into dish and ate faster – intense about food			
moved muzzle toward hand			
<i>stiffened, gave whale eye, snarled (indicate response)</i>			
<i>froze, growled, lunged, snapped, bit assess-a-hand</i>			

Possession Test - offer a valued possession (rawhide, pig ear, etc.). Have a rug or blanket available for the puppy to take the item to and settle.

Once the puppy has taken possession of the item and is chewing on it, reach for it using the assess-a-hand - attempting to take the item away. Repeat this three times (R # 1, 2, and 3 in table below)

BEHAVIORAL RESPONSE	R #1	R #2	R #3
readily dropped item			
allowed assess-a-hand or real hand to take object away (circle one)			
resisted letting go of possession but did not show outward aggression			
<i>stiffened, gave whale eye, snarled (indicate response)</i>			
<i>froze, growled, lunged, snapped, bit assess-a-hand</i>			