

# Volhard Temperament Test

*To be performed on the 49th day of age*

Owner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Breed: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Puppy's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Position in Litter (if known): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Distinguishing Marks: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_ Tester: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Social Attraction</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Score</b>	
Place puppy in test area. From a few feet away the tester coaxes the pup feet away the tester coaxes the pup to her/him by clapping hands gently to her/him by clapping hands gently and kneeling down. Tester must coax in a direction away from the point where it entered the testing area.	Degree of social attraction, confidence or dependence.	Came readily, tail up, jumped, bit at hands.	1
		Came readily, tail up, pawed, licked at hands.	2
		Came readily, tail up.	3
		Came readily, tail down	4
		Came hesitantly, tail down.	5
		Didn't come at all.	6

<b>Following</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Score</b>	
Stand up and walk away from the pup in a normal manner. Make sure the pup sees you walk away.	Degree of following attraction. Not following indicates independence.	Followed readily, tail up, got underfoot, bit at feet.	1
		Followed readily, tail up, got underfoot.	2
		Followed readily, tail up	3
		Followed readily, tail down.	4
		Followed hesitantly, tail down.	5
		No follow or went away.	6

<b>Restraint</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Score</b>	
Crouch down and gently roll the pup on his back and hold it down with one hand for a full 30 seconds.	Degree of dominant or submissive tendency. How it accepts stress when socially/physically dominated.	Struggled fiercely, flailed, bit.	1
		Struggled fiercely, flailed.	2
		Settled, struggled, settled with some eye contact.	3
		Struggled then settled.	4
		No struggle.	5
		No struggle, straining to avoid eye contact.	6

<b>Social Dominance</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Score</b>	
Let pup stand up and gently stroke him from the head to back while you crouch beside him. Continue stroking until a recognisable behaviour is established.	Degree of acceptance of social dominance. Pup may try to dominate by jumping and nipping or is independent and walks away.	Jumped, pawed, bit, growled.	1
		Jumped, pawed.	2
		Cuddles up to tester and tries to lick face.	3
		Squirmed, licked at hands.	4
		Rolled over, licked at hands.	5
		Went away and stayed away.	6

The Canine Film Academy  
 57c Cheapside Road, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 7QR

Tel: 01344 291 465 Mob: 07767 34 14 24 E-mail: [Katie.CFA@virgin.net](mailto:Katie.CFA@virgin.net)

Elevation Dominance	Purpose	Score	
Bend over and cradle the pup under its belly, fingers interlaced, palms up and elevate it just off the ground. Hold it there for 30 seconds	Degree of accepting dominance while in a position of no control.	Struggled fiercely, bit, growled.	1
		Struggled fiercely.	2
		No struggle, relaxed	3
		Struggled, settled, licked	4
		No struggle, licked at hands.	5
		No struggle, froze.	6

Retrieving	Purpose	Score	
Crouch beside pup and attract his attention with crumpled up paper ball. When the pup shows interest and is watching, toss the object 4-6 feet in front of pup.	Degree of willingness to work with a human. High correlation between ability to retrieve and successful guide dogs, obedience dogs and field trial dogs.	Chases object, picks up object and runs away.	1
		Chases object, stands over object, does not return.	2
		Chases object and returns with object to tester.	3
		Chases object and returns without object to tester.	4
		Starts to chase object, loses interest.	5
		Does not chase object.	6

Touch Sensitivity	Purpose	Score	
Take puppy's webbing of one front foot and press between finger and thumb lightly, then more firmly till you get a response, while you count slowly to 10. Stop as soon as puppy pulls away or shows discomfort. DO NOT USE FINGERNAIL!	Degree of sensitivity to touch	8-10 counts before response.	1
		6-7 counts before response.	2
		5-6 counts before response.	3
		2-4 counts before response.	4
		1-2 counts before response.	5

Sound Sensitivity	Purpose	Score	
Place pup in the center of area, tester or assistant makes a sharp noise a few feet from the puppy. A large metal spoon struck sharply on a metal pan twice works well.	Degree of sensitivity to sound. (Also can be a rudimentary test for deafness)	Listens, locates sound, walks toward it barking.	1
		Listens, locates sound, barks.	2
		Listens, locates sound, shows curiosity and walks toward sound.	3
		Listens, locates the sound.	4
		Cringes, backs off, hides.	5
		Ignores sound, shows no curiosity.	6

Sight Sensitivity	Purpose	Score	
Place pup in center of room. Tie a string around a large towel and jerk it across the floor a few feet away from the puppy.	Degree of intelligent response to strange object	Looks, attacks and bites.	1
		Looks, barks and tail up.	2
		Looks curiously, attempts to investigate.	3
		Looks, barks, tail-tuck.	4
		Runs away, hides.	5

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