

PET PARTNERS TEAM EVALUATION

Skills Exercises for Very Small Dogs

Review the Handler's Questionnaire Form

- ▶ You meet the team evaluator and the evaluator's assistants.
- ▶ The evaluator reviews your handler's questionnaire.
- ▶ You share with the evaluator how your dog signals to you that it needs a break or that it's time to leave.

Accepting a Friendly Stranger

- ▶ Your dog is handled as it will be during a visit, either carried or walking on the ground (your choice).
- ▶ You and the evaluator greet each other and shake hands.
- ▶ The evaluator looks at but doesn't touch your dog.
- ▶ If your dog is walking on the ground, it may change position but remains next to you.
- ▶ If your dog is carried, it may change position but remains calm.

Accepting Petting

- ▶ Your dog is handled as it will be during a visit, either carried or walking on the ground (your choice).
- ▶ The evaluator approaches again and pets your dog on the head and body.
- ▶ The evaluator walks around behind your team and then returns to his or her starting place.
- ▶ Your dog may change position but willingly accepts petting.

Appearance and Grooming

- ▶ Your dog is placed on either a table or the evaluator's lap (your choice).
- ▶ The evaluator feels your dog's coat and looks at its eyes, ears and toenails.
- ▶ The evaluator picks up and holds each front foot separately.
- ▶ The evaluator briefly brushes your dog in a natural manner.
- ▶ Your dog may change position but accepts handling.

Out for a Walk ♦

- ▶ All dogs must walk on the ground for this exercise.
- ▶ The evaluator explains what path to walk along.
- ▶ Your team will be asked to stop during the walk.
- ▶ Your dog does not need to heel perfectly but walks next to you on a loose lead with its attention on you.

Walk Through a Crowd ♦

- ▶ Your dog is handled as it will be during a visit, either carried or walking on the ground (your choice).
- ▶ The evaluator explains what path to walk along.
- ▶ Three assistants will walk through the area that you're walking through.
- ▶ You proactively navigate the crowd.
- ▶ If your dog is walking on the ground, it walks next to you on a loose lead with its attention on you; it may not approach for visits independently.
- ▶ If your dog is carried, it remains calm.

Reaction to Distractions

- ▶ Your dog is handled as it will be during a visit, either carried or walking on the ground (your choice).
- ▶ The evaluator explains what path to walk along.
- ▶ There will be two distractions, a visual one in front of your team and an auditory one behind your team.
- ▶ If your dog is walking on the ground, it walks next to you on a loose lead with its attention on you.
- ▶ You support your dog as needed. Your dog may express curiosity; if it startles, it recovers promptly.

Passed Between Three Strangers

- ▶ Assistants are seated in chairs within an arm's length of each other.
- ▶ Hand your towel/blanket to the first assistant to place in their lap and then pass your dog to them.
- ▶ Your dog sits for 5 seconds in the assistant's lap and is petted.
- ▶ The assistant passes your dog back to you and passes the towel/blanket to the next assistant.
- ▶ The process is repeated with two more assistants.
- ▶ You guide the interaction and reassure your dog as needed.
- ▶ Your dog willingly accepts interactions with the assistants.
- ▶ You may choose to have your dog do the "Sit on Cue" and "Down on Cue" exercises that larger dogs do, instead of this exercise. See the *Evaluation Overview for Dogs* for further detail.

Stay in Place on a Lap/Table ♦

- ▶ Your dog is placed on either a table or the evaluator's lap (your choice).
- ▶ You cue your dog to stay.
- ▶ You stand next to your dog, holding its leash but not petting it.
- ▶ After 30 seconds, the evaluator cues you to retrieve your dog.
- ▶ Your dog may change position but stays.
- ▶ You may choose to have your dog do the "Stay in Place" exercise on the ground instead, as larger dogs do. See the *Evaluation Overview for Dogs* for further detail.

Come When Called

- ▶ The evaluator provides a 10-foot long line and asks you to attach it to your dog.
- ▶ The evaluator distracts your dog by petting it.
- ▶ You walk 10 feet away, holding the long line.
- ▶ The evaluator cues you to call your dog.
- ▶ Your dog returns to you without distraction or delay.
- ▶ You reattach a standard leash and return the long line to the evaluator.

Reaction to a Neutral Dog ♦

- ▶ Your dog is handled as it will be during a visit, either carried or walking on the ground (your choice).
- ▶ Your team is standing with an evaluation assistant.
- ▶ A neutral dog team enters the room and makes a short visit with another assistant. You support your animal as needed.
- ▶ As the neutral dog team leaves their visit, the two teams approach each other and pass approximately an arm's length apart.
- ▶ Your team visits with the other evaluation assistant as the neutral dog team leaves.
- ▶ Your dog maintains its position next to you and does not show aggression or excessive fear.

Aptitude Exercises for Very Small Dogs

Overall Handling ♦

- ▶ Your dog is placed on either a table or the evaluator's lap (your choice).
- ▶ The evaluator makes eye contact with your dog and then exposes it to physical handling to assess its reaction to being touched in different areas; for example, the evaluator holds your dog's tail, touches its ears, looks at its teeth and handles its feet.
- ▶ You facilitate the interaction and support your dog as needed. Your dog accepts handling.

Exuberant and Clumsy Petting ♦

- ▶ Your dog is placed on either a table or the evaluator's lap (your choice).
- ▶ The evaluator simulates petting by someone with limited mobility and poor motor skills.
- ▶ The evaluator also uses a high-pitched or squeaky voice and makes strange noises while interacting with your dog.
- ▶ You facilitate the interaction and support your dog as needed. Your dog willingly accepts petting.

Restraining Hug ♦

- ▶ Your dog is placed on either a table or the evaluator's lap (your choice).
- ▶ The evaluator makes eye contact with your dog and then leans over and gives it a full-body hug that restricts it for no more than 15 seconds.
- ▶ You facilitate the interaction and support your dog as needed. Your dog willingly accepts the hug.

Staggering and Gesturing Individual

- ▶ Your dog is handled as it will be during a visit, either carried or walking on the ground (your choice).
- ▶ An assistant wearing a costume and using healthcare equipment staggers, gestures with the hands and moans until he or she is 6 feet from your team.
- ▶ The assistant stops, calls your team to approach and pets your dog.
- ▶ Your dog willingly approaches and accepts petting.

Angry Yelling

- ▶ Your dog is handled as it will be during a visit, either carried or walking on the ground (your choice).
- ▶ Two assistants begin yelling at each other approximately 6 feet away from your team. The yelling is not directed at your team.
- ▶ The assistants stop yelling and become neutral, and one assistant calls your team to approach.
- ▶ Your dog willingly approaches and accepts interaction.

Two-Fingered Tap

- ▶ Your dog is handled as it will be during a visit, either carried or walking on the ground (your choice).
- ▶ While you and your dog crosses the room, the evaluator comes up from behind and gently taps your animal with two fingers on its side or back.
- ▶ You acknowledge the tap and support your dog as needed. Your dog may startle but recovers quickly.

Crowded and Petted by Several People ♦

- ▶ Your dog is handled as it will be during a visit, either carried or walking on the ground (your choice).
- ▶ Three assistants approach, one at a time, and begin touching your dog, until all three are gathered closely around, attempting to attract your dog's attention.
- ▶ One assistant will be using healthcare equipment to approach your team.
- ▶ You proactively manage the crowd, facilitating interactions and supporting your dog as needed.
- ▶ Your dog willingly accepts petting.

Leave It ♦

- ▶ All dogs must walk on the ground for this exercise.
- ▶ The evaluator explains what path to walk along.
- ▶ The path will take your team past a toy on the ground, and your dog will pass within two feet of the toy.
- ▶ Your dog may not touch, pick up or mouth the toy. Looking and sniffing is acceptable.

Offered a Treat

- ▶ Your dog is handled as it will be during a visit, either carried or walking on the floor (your choice).
- ▶ The evaluator walks toward your team with a treat in hand, saying, “May I give your dog a treat?”
- ▶ You get to decide whether your dog may have the treat. If you choose not to have the treat offered, this also means you will not allow treats to be given while visiting.
- ▶ If you allow the treat to be taken, you direct the evaluator how best to offer the treat; your dog takes the treat gently.

♦ *Indicates exercises used to determine a Complex team qualification rating*