



Behavior Checklist Definitions

Version 9.1 - Last update 2024

Change Log

- V9.1 24/09/2024: Formatting update
- V9 3/23/2022: 35 Aggression Towards Strangers modified where it changes the meaning, change made due to poor discriminate validity with 10 Fear of Strangers on IRR, 36 Aggression Towards Dogs slight modifications not impacting the meaning.
- V8-1/28/2022: Multiple edits for consistent order and wording without change in meaning. 15 Body sensitivity removed turning head to mouth item, 29 Sniffing focus on impacts to stay on task and not frequency, Added 52 Whines Excessively
- V7-9/27/2021: 31 Inappropriate Behavior around the home- clarification for dog's interest in the food
- V6-5/14/21: 38 Inapprop Elimination clarification, Added Whines Excessively
- V5-3/20/21: 43 Comparison score-clarification
- V4-7/27/20; 11 Body Handling clarification, 13 Harness Sensitivity – title clarification, 15 Body Sensitivity clarification, 21 Fidgety – significant change removed times, added handler intervention, 25 Focus – clarification, 31 Inappropriate behavior around the home – significant changes.
- V3-11/7/18: 2 Noise-clarification, 19-excitment-significant modification 47 work speed, more details
- V2-1/27/2018: BCL item 15 Body sensitivity edited
- V1-1/27/18: Added definitions for items 47-52

Online Resources

- [International Working Dog Registry: https://www.iwdr.org/](https://www.iwdr.org/)
- [BCL Definitions - Online version, with video examples: https://www.iwdba.org/working-dog-resources/list-of-all-bcl-items/](https://www.iwdba.org/working-dog-resources/list-of-all-bcl-items/)

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1. Anxious in unfamiliar locations

Initially anxious during first visits to unfamiliar locations. Exhibited as increased or inhibited activity, cautious and/or less responsive or focused. When scoring GDBart, it is only the first minute of exploration.

Absent	No signs of anxiety in unfamiliar locations. Remains relaxed.
Very mild	Initial slight signs of anxiety in unfamiliar locations. Recovers very quickly and remains able to stay on task and respond effectively. Signs may include mild tongue flicking, mild restlessness or slowing,
Mild	Mild or moderate signs of anxiety in unfamiliar locations. Recovers quickly but has brief loss of responsiveness to staying on task. Returns to task with minimal support or time.. Signs may include frequent tongue flicking, mild change in energy (slowing down or speeding up. Mild coping strategies of moving away or displacement sniffing, and/or mild to moderate tense body language,
Moderate	Pronounced anxiety to unfamiliar locations and slow recovery interfering with responsiveness to staying on task. Return to task requires significant support or time. Signs may include moderate change in energy (slowing down or speeding up and/or moderate tense body language and slow to habituate. Dog may exhibit coping strategy of moving away and a release of emotional energy such as, panting, whining, fast jerky movements, inhibited, compressed, escape behavior, seeking some handler support.
Severe	Very strong anxiety in unfamiliar locations. Fails to recover to previous level of composure and responsiveness. Does not maintain staying on task despite support or time to recover. Signs may include a severe change in energy (slowing down or speeding up) and/or very tense body language and unable to habituate. Dog may exhibit strong coping strategy of moving away and release of emotional energy such as tongue flicking, whining, fast jerky movements, escape behavior, inhibited, compressed, clinging to handler. Does not maintain work.

2. Noise sensitivity

Startle, tense body language, hurries, escape or displacement behaviors when exposed to noise such as car horns, hair dryers, vacuums, banging

Absent	No signs of concern or startle when exposed to noise from any source other than thunder and traffic. Remains relaxed.
Very mild	Very mild signs of concern or startle when exposed to sudden or loud noises from any source other than thunder and traffic. Recovers very quickly and remains able to stay on task and respond effectively. Signs may include a very slight change in energy (slowing down or speeding up), briefly moves away with quick return and/or slightly tense body language with almost immediate return to normal. No concern noted if exposure repeated.
Mild	Mild signs of concern or startle when exposed to sudden or loud noises from any source other than thunder and traffic. Recovers quickly but has brief loss of responsiveness to staying on task. Returns to task with minimal support or time. Signs may include a mild to moderate change in energy (slowing down or speeding up), mild coping strategies of moving away or displacement sniffing and/or mild to moderate tense body language. improves with subsequent exposure.
Moderate	Moderate concern or startle when exposed to sudden or loud noises from any source other than thunder and traffic that interferes with dog's ability to stay on

task without encouragement. Slow recovery interfering with responsiveness to staying on task. Return to task requires significant support or time. Signs may include a moderate change in energy (slowing down or speeding up) and/or moderate tense body language and slow to habituate. Dog may exhibit coping strategy of moving away, release of emotional energy and/or up to 1 minute of habituation time.

Severe Severe concern or fear reaction when exposed to sudden or loud noises from any source other than thunder and traffic that interferes with dog's ability to stay on task despite encouragement. Very slow or fails to recover to previous level of composure and responsiveness. Does not stay on task despite support or time. Signs may include a moderate to severe change in energy (slowing down or speeding up) and/or very tense body language. Dog may exhibit strong coping strategy of moving away, release of emotional energy and/or over 1 minute of habituation time despite support.

3. Fear of novel objects

Fearful, avoidant, or suspicious of unfamiliar objects, which could be anything, but common examples are plastic bags, statues, yard equipment, balloons, etc.

Absent No signs of concern or startle when exposed to unfamiliar objects. Will readily approach and investigate novel objects if allowed to.

Very mild Very mild signs of concern or startle when exposed to unfamiliar objects. Recovers very quickly and remains able to stay on task and respond effectively. Signs may include a very slight change in energy (slowing down or speeding up) and/or slightly tense body language with almost immediate return to normal. No concern noted if exposure repeated and will generally approach and investigate object once over initial concerns.

Mild Mild signs of concern or startle when exposed to unfamiliar objects. Recovers quickly but has brief loss of responsiveness to staying on task. Returns to task with minimal support or time. Signs may include a mild to moderate change in energy (slowing down or speeding up) and/or mild to moderate tense body language with rapid return to normal. Shows mild reluctance to approach and investigate novel objects but will do so with encouragement. Improves with subsequent exposure.

Moderate Moderate concern or startle when exposed to unfamiliar object that interferes with dog's ability to maintain staying on task without encouragement. Slow recovery interfering with responsiveness to staying on task. Return to task requires significant support or time. Signs may include a moderate change in energy (slowing down or speeding up) and/or moderate tense body language and slow to habituate. Shows some reluctance to approach novel objects even with encouragement. Dog may exhibit coping strategy of moving away slightly or releasing emotional energy by increased activity and/or up to 1 minute of habituation time.

Severe Severe concern or fear reaction when exposed to unfamiliar object that interferes with dog's ability to maintain staying on task despite encouragement. Very slow or fails to recover to previous level of composure and responsiveness. Does not stay on task despite support or time. Signs may include a moderate to severe change in energy (slowing down or speeding up) and/or very tense body language. Shows strong reluctance to approach novel objects despite encouragement. Dog may exhibit strong coping strategy of moving away or releasing emotional energy by increased activity and/or over 1 minute of habituation time despite support.

4. Fear of underfootings

Fearful, nervous, apprehensive of various walking surfaces: slippery floors, gratings, other

Absent	No signs of avoidance or hesitancy when approaching different walking surfaces (slippery floors, gratings); crosses over them without changing pace.
Very mild	Very mild signs of avoidance when approaching or walking on different surfaces (slippery floors, gratings). Recovers very quickly and remains able to stay on task and respond effectively. Signs may include slight hesitancy to step on, very mild hurrying across surface, and mildly tense body language.
Mild	Mild signs of avoidance when approaching or walking on different surfaces. Recovers quickly but has brief loss of responsiveness to staying on task. Returns to task with minimal support or time. Signs may include mild hesitancy to step on with mild transient compression, mild hurrying across surface, and moderately tense body language. Improves with subsequent exposure and/or minimal encouragement from handler.
Moderate	Moderate signs of avoidance when approaching or walking on different surfaces. Slow recovery interfering with responsiveness to staying on task. Return to task requires significant support or time. Signs may include balking on approach, attempts to jump over, hurrying to get off surface or slowing down dramatically. Will always tend to avoid them, but not at the expense of making a clearance error or endangering the person.
Severe	Fearful when approaching or walking on different surfaces. Very slow or fails to recover to previous level of composure and responsiveness. Does not stay on task despite support or time. Signs may include hesitancy, hurrying, balking or refusal, very tense body language. Will avoid them even if it results in a clearance error or other mistake that may endanger the person.

5. Fear of dogs

Inhibited response to other dogs on leash or off leash such as low body posture, pulling back, head low, apprehensive, avoidant, hackles, withdraws, reluctant to proceed, watches

Absent	Shows no signs of fear or suspicion of unfamiliar dogs. Comfortable around other dogs.
Very mild	Slightly cautious when approached by isolated unfamiliar dogs but quickly refocuses on the task with verbal encouragement. Recovers very quickly and remains able to stay on task and respond effectively. Signs may include very mildly raised hackles, very mild slowing down, tail low, and/or slight avoidance.
Mild	Occasionally mild cautious around other dogs. Recovers quickly but has brief loss of responsiveness to staying on task. Returns to task with minimal support or time once past the dog. Signs may include mildly raised hackles, mild slowing down, moving away from and/or avoiding an approaching dog and may briefly vocalize.
Moderate	Moderately cautious around other dogs. Slow recovery interfering with responsiveness to staying on task. Return to task requires significant support or time once past the dog. Signs may include moderately raised hackles, low body posture, pulling back, head low, watching other dog closely but typically without facing them directly and/or repeated vocalizations.
Severe	Very cautious or fearful of other dogs and typically avoids them. Very slow or fails to recover to previous level of composure and responsiveness. Does not stay on task despite support or time. Signs may include stress and/or fear (very raised

hackles, tongue flicking, trembling, growling, retreat, escape). May become aggressive when in a situation where it cannot easily escape ('cornered')..

6. Fear of stairs

Hurries, refuses, or hesitant on stairs: closed stairs, open back stairs, open grate stairs, upstairs, downstairs

Absent No signs of avoidance or hesitancy when approaching or walking on stairs, is relaxed going up or down solid and open-backed stairs without rushing due to stress

Very mild Very mild signs of avoidance when approaching or walking on stairs. Recovers very quickly and remains able to stay on task and respond effectively. Signs may include slight hesitancy to step on, very mild hurrying on stairs, and very mild tense body language.

Mild Mild signs of avoidance when approaching or walking on stairs. Recovers quickly but has brief loss of responsiveness to staying on task. Returns to task with minimal support or time. Signs may include mild hesitancy to step on with mild transient compression, mild hurrying on stairs, and mildly tense body language. Improves with subsequent exposure.

Moderate Moderate signs of avoidance or concern when approaching or walking on stairs. Slow recovery interfering with responsiveness to staying on task. Return to task requires significant support or time. Signs may include balking on approach, attempts to jump off, hurrying up then whining and hesitant to go down, placing front feet on stairs but not rear feet at first then getting on stairs, compresses when moving on stairs, rushes to exit. Is not comfortable matching speed to handler or waiting on stairs.

Severe Fearful when approaching or walking on stairs. Very slow or fails to recover to previous level of composure and responsiveness. Does not stay on task despite support or time. Signs may include hesitancy, hurrying, balking or refusal, very tense body language. Will avoid stairs or hurry when moving on them even if it results in a clearance error or other mistake that may endanger the person. Rushes to exit.

7. Fear of traffic

Tense body language, tail low or tucked, change in activity level, startle, retreat, escape in response to sight and sounds of vehicle traffic

Absent No apprehension around traffic. Is comfortable and at ease around traffic regardless of intensity.

Very mild Slightly apprehensive around traffic. Recovers very quickly and remains able to stay on task and respond effectively. Signs may include mild tongue flicking, and/or mildly tense body language (ears low & pulled back slightly, lips pulled back).

Mild Mildly apprehensive or distressed around traffic. Recovers quickly but has brief loss of responsiveness to staying on task. Returns to task with minimal support or time. Signs may include very mild hurrying to walk away from area frequent tongue flicking, transient mild panting, and/or moderately tense body language. Improves with subsequent exposure.

Moderate Moderate signs of apprehension or distress around traffic. Slow recovery interfering with responsiveness to staying on task. Return to task requires significant support or time Signs may include moderate hurrying to walk away from area, tense body language, startle.

Severe Fearful around traffic. Very slow or fails to recover to previous level of composure and responsiveness. Does not stay on task despite support or time Signs may include tense body language, retreat, startle, may try to escape.

8. Separation anxiety

Restless, vocalizes, and/or becomes destructive when left alone

Absent No vocalizations or restlessness when left alone for reasonable periods.

Very mild Very mild whining and/or is very mildly restless initially when left alone but settles and quiets within 5 minutes and remains settled for reasonable separation periods.

Mild Mild whining and/or a few barks and/or is mildly restless when left alone but settles and quiets eventually within 5 minutes and remains settled for reasonable separation periods

Moderate Moderate whining and/or barking and/or moderately agitated and restless when left alone for reasonable periods Does not settle and remain quiet within 5 minutes and will vocalize intermittently or throughout the duration of separation.

Severe Very vocal and/or very agitated and distressed when left alone for reasonable periods. Does not settle and within 5 minutes and may be destructive or self-mutilates.

9. Hyper-attachment

Overly attached to primary handler, seeks to return to primary handler when handled by others

Absent Readily adapts to new handler or caretaker even when primary handler is visible.

Very mild Demonstrates slight attachment to primary handler and familiar individuals; noted by looking for handler, but readily adapts to a new handler or caretaker who provides support for short periods.

Mild Demonstrates mild attachment to primary handler and familiar individuals; noted by looking for handler or exhibiting mild anxiety with or without minor vocalizing, but readily adapts to new handler or caretaker with support, which may include use of food.

Moderate Forms strong attachments to primary handler and familiar individuals. Adapts slowly to new handler or caretaker even when primary handler is not visible; noted by prolonged seeking of primary handler and/or moderate anxiety and difficulty and/or unwillingness to work with and respond to new handler despite providing support. Difficulty staying on task.

Severe Forms very strong attachments to primary handler and familiar individuals. Very slow adaptation to new handler or caretaker if primary handler is not present; noted by severe anxiety and prolonged inability or unwillingness to work with and respond to new handler despite providing support. Unable to stay on task.

10. Fear of strangers

Fearful, nervous, apprehensive with strangers, cautious, avoidant, hackling, slow approach, keying in, barking, growling, escape

Absent	Shows no signs of caution, fear or suspicion when encountering unfamiliar person(s). Comfortable around strangers regardless of strange appearance or behavior.
Very mild	Slightly cautious, fearful or suspicious when encountering unfamiliar person(s).. Quickly recovers however may need a little verbal encouragement from handler. Signs may include turning head away looking in other direction, brief displacement sniffing leaning body away slightly, include watching person and/or slightly slowing down.
Mild	Mildly cautious ,fearful or suspicious when encountering unfamiliar person(s).. Quickly recovers however may need a little verbal encouragement from handler or a change in the unfamiliar person. Signs may include moving body away, mild hackling, slowing down, slight compression of the body, looking away or watching person cautiously, mild displacement sniffing.
Moderate	Moderately cautious ,fearful or suspicious when encountering unfamiliar person(s). Slower to recover even with support from the handler. When approached, signs may include low body posture, moderately pulling back to avoid contact, moderate raised hackles and/or may vocalize. When moving past, signs may include moderately slowing down and/or hesitancy to pass by, moderate focus on person, moderate raised hackles, vocalization, and/or moderate compression of the body.
Severe	Very cautious ,fearful or suspicious when encountering unfamiliar person(s) Very slow or does not recover even with support from the handler. When approached, signs may include dilated eyes, very raised hackles, trembling, vocalizing, retreat and/or escape. May become aggressive in a situation where it cannot easily escape ('cornered'). Is unable to work past person, may vocalize and/or severe compression of the body.

11. Body handling concern

Avoidant, anxious, fearful, and/or aggressive when handled for non-invasive activities in a manner typical of a vet exam, grooming and/or nail clipping

Absent	No concern when handled for non-invasive activities in a manner typical of a vet exam, grooming, nail clipping
Very mild	Very mild signs of concern such as very mild tongue flicking, very mildly tense body language and muscle tone and/or yawning when handled for non-invasive activities in a manner typical of a vet exam, grooming, nail clipping. Is not difficult to manage and needs no or minimal supportive handling.
Mild	Mild concern displayed by becoming mildly activated or inhibited and may have mild tongue flicking, mildly tense body language and muscle tone, when handled for non-invasive activities in a manner typical of a vet exam, grooming, nail clipping. Able to tolerate exam with mild supportive handling.
Moderate	Moderate concern displayed by becoming moderately activated or inhibited and typically strong struggling, pulling back or flailing when handled for non-invasive activities in a manner typical of a vet exam, grooming, nail clipping. Very difficult to manage but can with significant effort finish exam.

Severe Severe concern displayed by becoming severely activated or inhibited. Behaviors may include escaping or attempting to escape even when examined on floor, growling, having raised hackles, baring teeth, snapping and/or attempting to bite when handled for non-invasive activities in a manner typical of a vet exam, grooming, nail clipping. Very difficult to manage despite significant attempts to support and unable to effectively complete exam.

12. Retreats when reached for

Moves head or face away when reached for by familiar persons

Absent Does not move head or face away when reached for by familiar persons.

Very mild Very mildly moves head or face away when reached for by familiar persons. With a little encouragement, readily allows being reached for without a food lure.

Mild Mildly moves head or face away when reached for by familiar persons. Readily responds to a food lure and/or encouragement not to retreat when reached for.

Moderate Moderately moves head or face away when reached for by familiar persons. Hesitantly responds to a food lure and/or encouragement not to retreat when reached for.

Severe Severely moves head or face away when reached for by familiar persons. Slowly responds to a food lure and/or encouragement but remains tentative or continues to retreat when reached for.

13. Harness handle on back sensitivity

Drops rear quarters when harness handle lays on back

Absent Dog does not show any crouching or dropping in body when harness handle lies on its back

Very mild Dog initially shows very mild crouching, dropping **no more than one quarter** lower than its normal walking height when the harness handle lies on its back and when walking acclimates within a few minutes, resuming walking almost naturally.

Mild Dog initially shows mild crouching, **dropping to no more than half** its natural walking height when harness handle lies on its back and acclimates within a few minutes, resuming walking almost naturally.

Moderate Dog initially shows moderate crouching, **dropping very low to the ground** and walking in a deeply crouched position, but acclimates within a few minutes when walking and resumes walking almost naturally.

Severe Dog shows severe crouching, **dropping very low to the ground** and walking in a deeply crouched position with knees within a few inches of the ground when harness handle lies on back. **Acclimation to harness handle on back is very slow.**

14. Avoidance of blowing fan

Fearful or avoidant when walking past a blowing fan

Absent No signs of anxiety walking closely past blowing fan Remains relaxed.

Very mild	Initial very mild signs of anxiety walking closely past blowing fan. Recovers very quickly and remains able to stay on task and respond effectively. Signs may include mild tongue flicking, mild restlessness,
Mild	Mild signs of anxiety walking closely past blowing fan. Recovers quickly but has brief loss of responsiveness to staying on task. Returns to task with minimal support or time. Signs may include frequent tongue flicking, moderate restlessness, slight hurrying,
Moderate	Moderate anxiety and slow recovery walking closely past blowing fan. Slow recovery interfering with responsiveness to staying on task. Return to task requires significant support or time. Signs may include restlessness, panting, whining, fast jerky movements, moderately inhibited, compressed
Severe	Severe anxiety walking closely past blowing fan. Fails to recover to previous level of composure and responsiveness. Does not stay on task despite support or time. Signs may include rushing, tongue flicking, whining, fast jerky movements, strongly inhibited, compressed. and/or clinging to handler.

15. Body sensitivity to object contact

Inhibited by physical contact with objects other than harness handle on back. Manifested by change in energy or walking pace or other object touching the dog, inhibited reaction or slowing down and/or avoiding or freezing when wearing items such as dog jackets or body of the harness, hypervigilance with foot placement, avoidance of tight spaces, focus 2-3 feet in front of the dog.

Absent	Shows no signs of anxiety or change in pace from physical contact with objects such as stepping on rough surfaces, leaves, twigs etc.; collar or leash touching body, wearing harness or other objects, etc. Remains relaxed. If newly exposed, score after walking 1 minute to acclimate if needed
Very mild	Initial very mild signs of anxiety or change in pace from physical contact with objects such as stepping on rough surfaces, leaves, twigs etc.; collar or leash touching body, and/or very mildly inhibited, slowing down when wearing a harness or other objects. Recovers very quickly and remains able to stay on task & respond effectively without handler support. Anxiety signs may include infrequent tongue flicking, mild slowing down and/or very mild avoidance with a slight loss of responsiveness to work. If newly exposed score after walking 1 minute to acclimate if needed
Mild	Mild signs of anxiety or change in pace from physical contact with objects such as stepping on rough surfaces, leaves, twigs etc.; collar or leash touching body and/or mildly inhibited, slowing down when wearing a harness or other objects. Recovers quickly with support or additional acclimation time but has mild loss of responsiveness to staying on task. Anxiety signs may include frequent tongue flicking, mild hypervigilance when stepping, moderate slowing down or restlessness and/or mild avoidance of tight spaces. If newly exposed, score after walking 1 minute to acclimate if needed
Moderate	Moderate anxiety or change in pace and slow recovery from physical contact with objects. Maintains work with encouragement but has moderate loss of responsiveness to staying on task. Anxiety signs may include moderate hypervigilance when walking on rough surfaces, avoidance of tight spaces and/or moderately inhibited, slowing down when wearing a harness or other objects. If newly exposed, score after walking 1 minute to acclimate if needed
Severe	Severe anxiety or change in pace from physical contact with objects. Does not maintain staying on task and fails to recover to previous level of composure and

responsiveness despite significant handler support or acclimation time. Signs may include severe inhibition including freezing, hypervigilance when stepping, overriding the handler's instructions to avoid situation, and/or freezing or strongly avoiding harness being placed over head and/or wearing harness or other objects. If newly exposed, score after walking 1 minute to acclimate if needed

16. Anxious about riding in vehicles

Avoids getting into vehicle, does not settle when riding

Absent	No signs of stress related anxiety when getting into and riding in cars and vans. Remains relaxed.
Very mild	Initial slight signs of stress related anxiety when getting into and riding in cars and vans. Recovers very quickly and remains able to work & respond effectively. Signs may include infrequent tongue flicking, mild restlessness, and/or slight loss of responsiveness to staying on task.
Mild	Mild signs of stress related anxiety getting into and riding in cars and vans. Recovers quickly. Signs may include frequent tongue flicking, moderate restlessness, slight rushing, and/or mild loss of responsiveness to staying on task.
Moderate	Moderate signs of stress related anxiety and slow recovery getting into and riding in cars and vans. Signs may include very frequent tongue flicking, restlessness, panting, whining, fast jerky movements, inhibited, compressed, and/or seeking some handler support. Maintains staying on task with encouragement.
Severe	Severe signs of stress related anxiety getting into and riding in cars and vans. Fails to recover to previous level of composure and responsiveness. Signs may include rushing, very frequent tongue flicking, whining, fast jerky movements, inhibited, compressed, and/or clinging to handler. Does not maintain staying on task.

17. Inhibited or passively avoidant when exposed to potentially stressful situations

Copes with stress poorly, evidenced passively such as shutting down, avoidance, withdrawal, displacement activity such as avoidant sniffing and/or quitting as a response to stress

Absent	Does not become inhibited in response to stress
Very mild	In a few isolated instances, becomes very mildly inhibited in response to stress. Responds readily to encouragement and recovers quickly. Does not interfere with its ability to stay on task or continue responding to the handler. Signs may include a very slight change in energy (slowing down) briefly moves away with quick return and/or slightly tense body language.
Mild	Occasionally becomes mildly inhibited in response to stress. Recovers reasonably quickly with encouragement or allowing time to process. Does not interfere with its ability to stay on task or continue responding to the handler. Signs may include a mild to moderate change in energy (slowing down), mild coping strategies of moving away and/or mild to moderate tense body language.
Moderate	Becomes moderately inhibited in response to stress sometimes to the point of interfering with ability to stay on task or continue responding to handler despite support and encouragement and/or allowing a short time to process. Signs may include a moderate change in energy (slowing down) moderate coping strategies

of moving further away and/or moderate tense body language and slow to habituate.

Severe Becomes severely inhibited in response to stress to a point of being unable to work or continue responding to handler despite support and encouragement and/or allowing a short time to process.. Signs may include a severe change in energy (slowing down or shutting down), severely withdrawing, and/or severely tense body language

18. Activated when exposed to potentially stressful situations

Copes with stress poorly, evidenced by becoming more active such as faster movements, taking treats harder, more distracted, or other displacement behaviors to release emotional energy.

Absent Does not become animated when exposed to stress

Very mild In a few isolated instances, becomes very mildly animated in response to stress. Recovers very quickly Does not interfere with its ability to stay on task or continue responding to handler. Signs may include very mild increase in body movements, very mild tongue flicking very mild display of displacement activities such as but not limited to short periods of scavenging, sniffing.

Mild Occasionally becomes mildly animated in response to stress. Recovers reasonably quickly with encouragement and/or allowing a short time to process. Does not interfere with its ability to stay on task or continue responding to handler. Signs may include mild increase in body movements, mild tongue flicking, rare shaking of the head and/or scratching the body, mild panting, and/or mild display of displacement activities such as but not limited to repeated scavenging or attempts to scavenge.

Moderate Becomes moderately animated in response to stress sometimes to the point of interfering with ability to stay on task or continue responding to handler despite support and encouragement and/or allowing a short time to process. Signs may include moderate increase in body movements, some jerky body movements, running into things or showing less control of the body, moderate tongue flicking, occasional shaking of the head and/or scratching the body, moderate panting, and/or moderate display of displacement activities such as but not limited to repeated scavenging or attempts to scavenge.

Severe Becomes hyper-animated in response to stress to a point of being unable to stay on task or continue responding to handler despite support and encouragement and/or allowing a short time to process. Signs may include severe increase in body movements, very jerky body movements, running into things or showing more frequent poor control of the body, very frequent tongue flicking, frequent shaking of the head and/or scratching the body, severe or prolonged panting and/or severe display of displacement activities such as but not limited to repeated scavenging or attempts to scavenge.

19. Excitable

Increases energy and arousal levels without observed stress signals in response to stimuli such as, but not limited to, greeting a person, seeing another animal, being petted, anticipating going outside or for a walk or car ride; may whine in response to stimulus

Absent Does not increase energy and arousal levels without observed stress signals in response to stimuli. No additional handler direction required to manage dog.

- Very mild** Very mildly or mildly increases energy and arousal levels without observed stress signals in response to stimuli. Excitability does not interfere with staying on task or responding to the handler when provided minimal encouragement, supportive direction and/or up to 15 seconds to process without handler intervention. Signs may include very brief very mild to mildly increased body movements such as but not limited to brief attempts of non-forceful jumping, pawing, or muzzling.
- Mild** Moderately increases energy and arousal levels without observed stress signals in response to stimuli. Excitability does not interfere with staying on task or responding to the handler when supportive direction is provided or allowing up to 30 seconds to process without handler intervention. Signs may include brief bursts of moderately increased body movements such as but not limited to light panting, 1 or 2 brief barks, repeated but controllable attempts of jumping, pawing and play biting,
- Moderate** Moderately increases energy and arousal levels without observed stress signals in response to stimuli. Excitability interferes with staying on task or responding to the handler despite supportive direction. The dog is difficult to manage and/or requires over 30 seconds but less than 2 minutes to return to a productive state even with supportive handling. Signs may include moderate increase in body movements, short periods of jerky body movements or one instance of running into things or showing less control of the body, moderate panting, prolonged or repeated barking that can be redirected.
- Severe** Severely increases energy and arousal levels without observed stress signals in response to stimuli, Becomes wildly excited to a point of being unable to stay on task or continue responding to handler despite moderate to high levels of supportive direction. The dog is difficult to manage and/or requires over 2 minutes to return to a productive state even with supportive handling. Signs may include severe increases in body movements, repeated periods of jerky body movements, running into things or showing less control of the body, moderate to severe panting, prolonged or repeated behaviors such as barking, jumping, play biting that are very difficult or unable to be managed or redirected.

20. Slow to return to productive emotional state

It takes the dog a long time to recover its productive emotional state following exposure to an arousing or stressful stimulus situation. Time starts after an exciting or stressful stimulus has passed.

- Absent** Returns immediately (in less than 15 seconds) to productive emotional state after an exciting or stressful stimulus has passed.
- Very mild** Returns very quickly (15 to 30 seconds) to productive emotional state after an exciting or stressful stimulus has passed.
- Mild** Returns quickly (30 seconds to 2 minute) to productive emotional state after an exciting or stressful stimulus has passed.
- Moderate** Slow to return (2 to 5 minutes) to productive emotional state following exposure after an exciting or stressful stimulus has passed. May also exhibit progressive increase in recovery time following repeated exposure to exciting and/or stressful stimuli.
- Severe** Very slow to return (> 5 minutes) to productive emotional state after an exciting or stressful stimulus has passed and often exhibits progressive increase in recovery time following repeated exposure to exciting and/or stressful stimuli.

21. Fidgety when handler is idle

Unsettled and/or pursues own interests when handler is idle

Absent	Is not active and does not pursue other interests when handler is idle. Settles very quickly or immediately.
Very mild	Very mildly active and/or very mildly pursues other interests when handler is idle. Settles quickly without the need for handler intervention.
Mild	Mildly active and/or mildly pursues other interests, or briefly seeking handler interaction, requiring mild handler intervention to settle and wait patiently, when handler is idle.
Moderate	Moderately active and/or moderately pursues other interests or demanding interaction from handler requiring moderate handler intervention to settle and wait patiently, when handler is idle.
Severe	Hyperactive and/or strongly pursues other interests, or persistently and/or forcefully seeks handler interaction. Despite significant and repeated attempts at handler intervention, dog is unable to settle and wait patiently when handler is idle

22. Fear on elevated areas, drop-offs, etc

Dog is fearful, apprehensive, hesitant near platform edges or other elevated areas

Absent	No signs of fear when approaching edges drop offs, or when on an elevated areas
Very mild	Very mild signs of fear when approaching edges or drop offs, or when on an elevated area. May show hesitancy but stays on task Signs may include very mild tense body language.
Mild	Mild signs of fear when approaching edges, drop-offs, or when on an elevated area. Able to stay on task with mild handler support and improves with subsequent exposure Signs may include mildly tense body language, mild hesitancy with mild transient compression and/or mild hurrying.
Moderate	Moderate signs of fear when approaching edges, drop-offs, or when on an elevated area. Unable to stay on task without significant handler support or time to process Signs may include moderately tense body language, balking on approach, pulling away from the edge, moderate compression. Is not comfortable matching speed to handler or waiting in the elevated area.
Severe	Severe signs of fear when approaching edges, drop-offs, or when on an elevated area. Unable to stay on task despite significant handler support or time to process Unable to respond effectively on elevated areas. Signs may include severely tense body language, severe balking, or refusal on approach, severe pulling away from the edge, severe compression.

23. Barks persistently

Barks persistently when alarmed or excited

Absent	Never barks when alarmed or excited.
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Very mild	Rarely barks when excited or alarmed and quiets immediately with no intervention needed from the handler while still in presence of exciting/alarming stimulus.
Mild	Occasionally barks when excited or alarmed and requires handler direction and/or support to quiet quickly while still in presence of exciting/alarming stimulus.
Moderate	Often barks when excited or alarmed and typically requires repeated direction and/or support from handler to stop barking while in the presence of an exciting/alarming stimulus.
Severe	Consistently barks when excited or alarmed, despite repeated support from handler and/or efforts to redirect the behavior. Will continue to bark while the exciting/alarming stimulus is present.

24. High energy level

Requires more energy outlets than the average dog to achieve a calm demeanor

Absent	Requires minimal exercise or activity; may prefer to be sedentary. Content to lie down calmly for much of the day. Settles down quickly after a period of activity.
Very mild	Requires average exercise and activity to maintain a calm demeanor. May need only one short exercise period daily. Occasionally needs additional energy outlets to settle down and lie calmly with short periods of chewing toys or activity through the day.
Mild	Requires above average exercise to maintain a calm demeanor. Frequently needs additional energy outlets to settle down and lie calmly with short periods of chewing toys or activity through the day.
Moderate	Requires above average exercise and is frequently unable to maintain a calm demeanor despite exercise. Frequently needs atypically large amounts of energy outlets to settle down and does not consistently lie calmly with short periods of chewing toys or activity through the day.
Severe	Requires above average exercise and is rarely able to maintain a calm demeanor despite exercise. Consistently needs atypically large amounts of energy outlets to settle down and does not consistently lie calmly with short periods of chewing toys or activity through the day.

25. Lacks focus

Looking around; attention moves from one stimulus to another without maintaining focus on an activity. This is not a measure of 'engagement with the handler', which is scored in number 41 Handler/Dog Team

Absent	Dog demonstrates a strong ability to concentrate in all types of environments or work situations.
Very mild	Dog demonstrates good ability to concentrate in all types of environments or work situations. May rarely shift attention for brief periods and is readily able to regain focus with minimal support from the handler.
Mild	Dog demonstrates good ability to concentrate in all types of environments or work situations. Occasionally shifts attention and requires mild directive actions or other support from handler to regain focus.

Moderate Dog demonstrates poorer ability to concentrate in some environments or work situations. Frequently shifts attention and requires moderate directive action or other support from the handler to regain focus.

Severe Dog demonstrates poor ability to concentrate in some environments or work situations. Very frequently shifts attention, moving from diversion to diversion and regularly requires directive action or other support from handler to regain focus or is unable to regain focus

26. Movement excites

Easily distracted by non-animal movement: blowing leaves, flashlight, hose spraying water, etc., and has difficulty redirecting attention

Absent Dog briefly alerts to or shows no interest in movement such as light, leaves blowing, etc. and/or may briefly investigate or calmly follow movement when not working but does not interfere with staying on task. Dog does not exhibit signs of excitement evidenced by increased activity, vocalizing.

Very mild Dog alerts to and exhibits very mild interest in movement such as light, leaves blowing, etc. and may get very mildly excited such as very mild increased activity if not directed otherwise. Settles readily and remains responsive to handler.

Mild Dog alerts to and shows easily interruptible, mild interest in movement such as light, leaves blowing, etc. and may get mildly excited such as mild increased activity, mild persistence and/or brief whining. May require 15 seconds or less to settle after stimulus is gone. Responds readily to direction from handler.

Moderate Dog alerts to and exhibits moderate interest in movement such as light, leaves blowing, etc. resulting in moderate excitement such as moderately increased activity, decreased responsiveness to handler interfering with ability to stay on task, moderate whining and/or mild barking and/or moderate persistence. May require up to 3 minutes to fully settle after stimulus is gone.

Severe Exhibits a high level of interest in movement such as light, leaves blowing, etc. and excitement and/or very persistent interest in movement which interferes with ability to stay on task. May require a prolonged time to fully settle after stimulus is gone.

27. Chasing animals

Excited by animals other than dogs (e.g. birds, insects, squirrels, etc.) with persistent interest

Absent Exhibits no distraction and no interest in chasing or lunging at other animals (non-dog) such as birds, squirrels, rabbits, etc. No "prey drive." Remains focused on work regardless of movements in the environment.

Very mild Exhibits very mild distraction and interest in chasing or lunging at other animals (non-dog) such as birds, squirrels, rabbits, etc. and quickly refocuses on staying on task with encouragement without handler intervention and settles readily even in presence of animals.

Mild Exhibits mild distraction and interest in chasing or lunging at other animals (non-dog) such as birds, squirrels, rabbits, etc. and remains responsive to handler. Able to refocus on staying on task with mild handler intervention, does not exhibit persistent interest and settles readily even in presence of animals.

Moderate Exhibits moderate distraction and interest in chasing or lunging at other animals (non-dog) such as birds, squirrels, rabbits, etc. becoming less responsive to handler for brief periods. Exhibits mildly persistent interest but will readily settle with increased distance.

Severe Exhibits severe distraction and persistent interest in chasing or lunging at other animals (non-dog) such as birds, squirrels, rabbits, etc. and is poorly responsive to handler. Difficult to regain focus on work and quickly returns attention to the chasing animals. Unable to maintain work focus.

28. Dog distraction

Persistent interest in and high excitability level with other dog(s)

Absent Shows little or no interest in other dogs and focus is unaffected by their presence. Requires no intervention and/or support from handler.

Very mild Rarely loses focus and becomes very mildly distracted around other dogs but quickly refocuses with very mild handler intervention and/or support.

Mild Occasionally loses focus and becomes mildly distracted by around other dogs. Requires mild handler intervention and/or support to regain focus in the presence of the dog.

Moderate Frequently loses focus and becomes moderately distracted around other dogs and/or exhibits persistent interest in other dogs. Usually requires moderate handler intervention and/or support to regain focus in the presence of the dog.

Severe Consistently loses focus and/or becomes severely distracted around some dogs with persistent interest. Very difficult or impossible to regain focus in the presence of the dog or for some dogs even after the dog is out of sight despite handler intervention.

29. Sniffing

Distracted by olfactory stimuli

Absent Largely ignores olfactory stimuli or exhibits brief sniffing when not under command. Remains focused on staying on task. Does not exhibit persistent interest.

Very mild When distracted by olfactory stimuli exhibits very mild sniffing and immediately responds to the handler. Does not exhibit persistent interest in the smell and is able to refocus on staying on task with very mild handler intervention.

Mild When distracted by olfactory stimuli exhibits mild sniffing and responds to the handler with encouragement.. Does not exhibit persistent interest in the smell and is able to refocus on staying on task with mild handler intervention.

Moderate When distracted by olfactory stimuli and exhibits moderate sniffing for periods of 10 seconds or less before responding. Exhibits persistent interest in the smell and requires moderate handler intervention to refocus on staying on task.

Severe When distracted by olfactory stimuli exhibits excessive sniffing does not respond to the handler for periods than 10 seconds requiring significant handler intervention. Difficult to regain focus on staying on task and quickly returns attention to sniffing. Exhibits very strong persistent interest.

30. Scavenges

Picks up food or other items from the floor, sidewalk or other similar surface.

Absent	Does not scavenge
Very mild	Scavenges in a few isolated instances but stops with a verbal cue and is easy to control. Is not persistent.
Mild	Occasionally scavenges but stops with a handler intervention and/or support. Is not persistent.
Moderate	Frequently scavenges and requires a high level of effort to redirect the behavior, but stops eventually with handler intervention and/or support. Is persistent.
Severe	Routinely scavenges and often returns to scavenging after handler intervention and/or support. Is persistent.

31. Inappropriate behavior around the home

Chews household items, steals food or other items, tries to take things off counter tops, tables, etc. or out of garbage can. Carries or moves household objects.

Absent	Can be reliably trusted not to take, move or be destructive with household objects. Does not take items from the garbage, get on furniture or show interest in counters.
Very mild	May take or move a household object but responds immediately to verbal guidance. Is not persistent and never destructive with these items. Does not take items from the garbage. May put feet on furniture but responds readily to handler guidance and does not persist. May invade human personal space or sniff counter or table with obvious interest in food but makes no attempt to lick or take it or put feet or rise up to put head over a counter or table.
Mild	May take, or move a household object, or take a non-food item from the garbage, but does not eat or destroy it. Requires mild additional effort beyond verbal guidance and may move away or run off with it. May jump on furniture but responds to handler guidance and does not persist. May place feet on counter or table, push or lick container holding food, place head into garbage and/or attempt to grab food but can respond to mild handler direction and is not persistent.
Moderate	Dog has done any of these things more than once in the past month: Been mildly destructive with household items and/or handler has mild difficulty getting the dog to drop the item or stop playing 'keep away'. Jumped on furniture and requires repeated guidance from handler to stop attempting this. Attempted to or succeeds in, taking food or items from counters or garbage, or has knocked the garbage over, and requires more than mild handler direction and/or is persistent.
Severe	Dog has done one or more of these things more than once in the past month: Been moderately or severely destructive of household items, and/or been moderately persistent when playing "keep away" and will not give up the item readily. Jumped on furniture and/or is persistent in attempting to jump on furniture despite repeated guidance. Persistently attempted to or succeeds to take food or items from counters or garbage cans or has knocked garbage over, despite repeated intervention from the handler

32. Lacks initiative

Lacks intrinsic motivation to seek solutions while performing a task requested by its handler

Absent	Ideal intrinsic motivation to seek solutions while performing a task requested by its handler.
Very mild	Very mild lack of intrinsic motivation to seek solutions while performing a task requested by its handler.
Mild	Mild lack of intrinsic motivation to seek solutions while performing a task requested by its handler.
Moderate	Moderate lack of intrinsic motivation to seek solutions while performing a task requested by its handler.
Severe	Severe lack of intrinsic motivation to seek solutions while performing a task requested by its handler.

33. Not willing

Dog pursues own interests; lacks apparent desire to respond to handler

Absent	Dog does not pursue own interests and typically exhibits strong desire to comply with handler's direction.
Very mild	Dog occasionally pursues own interests but does so very mildly. Typically exhibits moderate desire to comply with handler's direction.
Mild	Dog frequently pursues own interests but does so mildly. Typically exhibits mild desire to comply with handler's direction.
Moderate	Dog frequently pursues own interests and does so moderately. Typically exhibits a low desire to comply with handler's direction.
Severe	Dog very frequently pursues own interests and does so moderately to severely. Typically exhibits a very low desire to comply with handler's direction.

34. Resource guarding towards people

Exhibits signs of aggressive guarding or possessiveness of resources (objects, toys, food) toward people who are present and/or approaching

Absent	Shows no signs of aggressive guarding or possessiveness of resources (objects, toys, food) when people are approaching and/or attempting to take away an item.
Very mild	Hovers over objects/toys/food without vocalizing when people are approaching and/or attempting to take away an item. May also exhibit very slight signs of conflict with change in energy, tongue flicking, avoidance, eating more quickly or stop eating but yields almost immediately on own.
Mild	Hovers over objects/toys/food when people are approaching and/or attempting to take away an item. May also exhibit moderate signs of conflict moving away from person, tongue flicking and/or brief stiffening, brief staring with or without half-moon shape of the whites of the eyes showing (whale eye), very brief growling but yields readily with handler direction.

Moderate Hovers over objects/toys/food and displays overt aggressive signs when people are approaching and/or attempting to take away an item. Aggressive signs may include prolonged stiffening and/or staring with half-moon shape of the whites of the eyes showing (whale eye), growling, any baring of teeth and does not always yield with efforts to redirect the behavior.

Severe Hovers over objects/toys/food and displays overt aggressive signs when people are approaching and/or attempting to take away an item. Aggressive signs may include prolonged stiffening and/or staring with half-moon shape of the whites of the eyes showing (whale eye) AND growling, any baring of teeth and attempts to bite or snap when challenged.

35. Aggression towards strangers

Shows aggression towards unfamiliar people (charges, rushes, bites or attempts to bite)

Absent Shows no signs of aggressive tendencies toward unfamiliar people.

Very mild Very mild signs of aggressive tendencies toward some unfamiliar people. Readily refocuses on staying on task with minimal handler support and/or encouragement. Signs include shifting weight forward accompanied by mildly stiff body language, mild profiling and/or raised hackles. Does not growl, charge, bark, bare teeth or attempt to bite in the presence of unfamiliar people.

Mild Mild signs of aggressive tendencies toward some unfamiliar people. Refocuses back stiff body language, profiling and/or on task with mild handler support and/or encouragement. Signs include stiff body language, profiling and/or raised hackles along with growling and/or barking. Does not charge bare teeth or attempt to bite in the presence of unfamiliar people.

Moderate Moderate signs of aggressive tendencies toward some unfamiliar people. Moderately difficult to refocus on task despite significant handler intervention and support. Signs include rushing or charging often while growling, barking and/or baring teeth. Does not attempt to bite when in presence of unfamiliar people.

Severe Severe signs of aggressive tendencies toward some unfamiliar strangers, Very difficult to refocus, or cannot refocus on task despite significant handler intervention and support. Signs include biting or attempting to bite, often with rushing or charging while growling, barking and/or baring teeth in presence of unfamiliar people.

36. Aggression towards dogs

Shows aggression toward other dogs (charges, rushes, bites or attempts to bite)

Absent Shows no signs of aggressive tendencies toward any unfamiliar dogs.

Very mild Very mild signs of aggressive tendencies toward some unfamiliar dogs. Readily refocuses on staying on task with minimal handler support and/or encouragement. Signs include shifting weight forward accompanied by mildly stiff body language, mild profiling and/or raised hackles, Does not growl, charge, bark, bare teeth or attempt to bite in the presence of unfamiliar dogs.

Mild Mild signs of aggressive tendencies toward some unfamiliar dogs. Refocuses back on staying on task with mild handler support and/or encouragement. Signs include stiff body language, profiling and/or raised hackles along with growling and/or

barking. Does not charge, bare teeth or attempt to bite in the presence of unfamiliar dogs.

Moderate Moderate signs of aggressive tendencies toward some unfamiliar dogs. Moderately difficult to refocus on staying on task despite significant handler intervention and support. Signs include rushing, charging, often while growling, barking and/or baring teeth. Does not attempt to bite in presence of unfamiliar dogs.

Severe Severe signs of aggressive tendencies toward some unfamiliar dogs. Very difficult to refocus, or cannot refocus on staying on task despite significant handler intervention and support. Signs include biting or attempting to bite, often with rushing or charging while growling, barking and/or baring teeth in presence of unfamiliar dogs.

37. Resource guarding towards dogs or other pets

Exhibits signs of aggressive guarding or possessiveness of resources (objects, toys, food) toward dogs or other pets that are present and/or approaching

Absent Shows no signs of aggressive guarding or possessiveness of resources (objects, toys, food) when dogs or other pets are approaching and/or attempting to take away an item.

Very mild Hovers over objects/toys/food without vocalizing when dogs or other pets are approaching and/or attempting to take away an item. May also exhibit very slight signs of conflict with change in energy, tongue flicking, avoidance, eating more quickly or stop eating but yields almost immediately on own.

Mild Hovers over objects/toys/food when dogs or other pets are approaching and/or attempting to take away an item. May also exhibit as moderate signs of conflict moving away, tongue flicking and/or brief stiffening, brief staring with or without half-moon shape of the whites of the eyes showing (whale eye), very brief growling but yields readily with handler direction.

Moderate Hovers over objects/toys/food and displays overt aggressive signs when dogs or other pets are approaching and/or attempting to take away an item. Aggressive signs may include prolonged stiffening and/or staring with half-moon shape of the whites of the eyes showing (whale eye), growling, any baring of teeth and does not always yield with efforts to redirect the behavior.

Severe Hovers over objects/toys/food and displays overt aggressive signs when dogs or other pets are approaching and/or attempting to take away an item. Aggressive signs may include prolonged stiffening and/or staring with half-moon shape of the whites of the eyes showing (whale eye) AND growling, any baring of teeth and attempts to bite or snap when challenged.

38. Inappropriate elimination while working en route

Absent Eliminates on route only at the curb or specified location, on command

Very mild Rarely eliminates en route without handler command and the tendency to do so has improved substantially with age and is unlikely to present a problem in the future.

Mild Occasionally eliminates en route without handler command. Adjustment of the feeding schedule/amount and diligent relieving schedule has improved the problem.

Moderate Often eliminates or attempts to eliminate en route without handler command. Has shown some improvement with age and/or changes in feeding routine.

Severe Routinely eliminates at will and in inappropriate places without handler command. Attempts to establish a predictable elimination schedule have failed and the dog shows no improvement with age.

39. Socially inappropriate behavior with people

Exhibits poor social manners with people

Absent Does not exhibit any socially inappropriate behavior around people, such as jumping on people, mouthing hands and/or muzzling

Very mild Very occasionally exhibits very mild socially inappropriate behavior around people such as brief attempts to jump on people, lightly mouth hands and/or soft muzzling. Is not persistent and readily responds to redirection from handler.

Mild Occasionally exhibits mild socially inappropriate behavior around people such as brief jumping on people, moderately mouthing hands and/or moderate muzzling. May be mildly persistent but readily responds to redirection from handler.

Moderate Frequently exhibits mildly socially inappropriate behavior or exhibits moderate socially inappropriate behavior around people such as forceful jumping on people, hard mouthing of hands and/or mild muzzle punches. May be moderately persistent requiring repeated redirection from the handler.

Severe Exhibits severe socially inappropriate behavior around people such as forceful jumping on people, hard mouthing of hands with or without teeth and/or forceful muzzle punches. May be very persistent Responds poorly to direction from handler.

40. Inconsistent

Dog's confidence, demeanor and/or ability to cope is inconsistent and not as expected based on the recent observations and training or socialization provided.

Absent Dog's confidence, demeanor and/or ability to cope is very consistent over multiple assessments in various environments.

Very mild Dog's confidence, demeanor and/or ability to cope varies very mildly over multiple assessments in various environments.

Mild Dog's confidence, demeanor and/or ability to cope varies mildly over multiple assessments in various environments.

Moderate Dog's confidence, demeanor and/or ability to cope varies moderately over multiple assessments in various environments.

Severe Dog's confidence, demeanor and/or ability to cope is extremely unpredictable across multiple assessments in various environments.

41. Handler/Dog team

How well dog and handler work together

Working Well	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Team is working well together in most situations.• Team works well together except for brief periods in new or very stimulating situations.• Team works well together except occasionally for moderately long periods in new or very stimulating situations.• Effective teamwork is interrupted for moderately prolonged periods in new and/or mild to moderately stimulating situations.
Not Working Well	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effective teamwork is interrupted for extended periods in new and/or mild to moderately stimulating situations

42. Relationship skills

Handler's ability to help team work well together and/or advance the dog's confidence and/or skills

9-8-7 Handler is very skilled	in building a trusting relationship and advancing the dog's confidence and/or skills. Handler communicates clearly, uses appropriate praise and reward and provides clear boundaries, uses skills to direct the dog.
6-5-4 Handler is less skilled or lacks skills in some key areas	which occasionally impairs their ability to work well together and/or advance the dog's confidence and/or skills. The level of handler skills mildly impacts the handler's ability to build a trusting relationship with the dog, communicate clearly, use appropriate praise and reward, provide clear boundaries and use skills to direct the dog.
3-2-1 Handler is not very skilled	Handler lacks skills in some or many key areas, which frequently impairs their ability to work well together and/or advance the dog's confidence and/or skills. The lack of handler skills moderately to severely impacts the handler's ability to build a trusting relationship with the dog, communicate clearly, use appropriate praise and reward, provide clear boundaries and use skills to direct the dog.

43. Comparison 1 to 9 score

This comparison score really helps us to get an overall picture of each dog. Use the 1 - 9 numerical score to grade each dog as an approximation of how well suited THIS dogs appears to be, at THIS time, related to the dogs in YOUR program, at THIS time. No need to consider how another program may rate the dog, how well suited for another line or work, or how the dog compares to the ultimate ideal dog. Use the whole range of the 1 - 9 scale where dogs fit the definition.

9-8-7 – Flexible dog, adaptable placement	This dog is really nice for our work
6-5-4 – Less adaptable placement	
3-2-1 – Unlikely to be usable; limited placement options	This dog is poorly suited for our work

44. Socially inappropriate behavior with dogs

Absent	Does not exhibit any socially inappropriate behavior around dogs in any setting, as evidenced by not body slamming, humping, roughly pursuing play despite other dog's communications to stop.
Very mild	Very occasionally exhibits very mild socially inappropriate behavior around dogs as evidenced by very mildly pursuing play despite other dog's communications to stop.
Mild	Occasionally exhibits mild socially inappropriate behavior around dogs as evidenced by mildly pursuing play and/or brief muzzling or mouthing despite other dog's communications to stop.
Moderate	Frequently exhibits moderate socially inappropriate behavior around dogs as evidenced by pursuing play despite other dog's communications to stop, muzzle punches, mouthing and/or brief humping.
Severe	Frequently exhibits severe socially inappropriate behavior around dogs as evidenced by persistent play despite other dog's communications to stop and/or hard muzzle punches, rough mouthing and/or persistent humping.

45. Thunder reaction

Absent	No change in dog's demeanor just prior to, during or immediately after a thunderstorm.
Very mild	Very mild awareness of thunderstorm by stopping activity and/or turning attention to effects of thunderstorm for a few seconds then resumes normal behavior; does not interfere with staying on task.
Mild	Awareness and mild anxiety of thunderstorm; exhibits mild panting and/or restlessness before and/or during the storm; does not interfere with staying on task or response to play or known commands.
Moderate	Awareness and moderate anxiety of thunderstorm; exhibits moderate panting and/or restlessness before and/or during the storm; interferes mildly with staying on task or response to play or known commands.
Severe	Awareness and severe anxiety of thunderstorm; exhibits severe panting and/or restlessness before, during and/or after the storm; interferes moderately or severely with staying on task or response to play or known commands.

46. Kennels poorly

Adapts poorly to living in a kennel environment, evidenced by stressed emotional state and/or difficulty maintaining physical condition due to kenneling

Absent	May be excited to see people or dogs, but does not exhibit changes in behavior typically related to poor adaptability of being kenneled such as being anxious or unsettled.
Very mild	Exhibits very mild changes in behavior such as occasional vocalizing, mild increased or decreased activity when kenneled and adapts within a few days to kenneling.
Mild	Exhibits mild changes in behavior such as frequent vocalizing, increased or decreased activity when kenneled. Adapts to kenneling within 2 weeks.
Moderate	Even after kenneling for 2 weeks, exhibits moderate changes in behavior such as frequent signs of inability to adapt to kenneling requiring exceptional animal husbandry or enrichment measures to remain in the kennel while maintaining health and/or calm emotional state.
Severe	Even after kenneling for 2 weeks, exhibits persistent signs of inability to adapt to kenneling and must be removed from the kennel environment to maintain health and/or calm emotional state

47. Working speed

Pace at which the dog is walking while guiding or other work the dog is trained to do.

Slow	<2.5 (<4 kph)	Very slow walk
Mod-	2.5 to 2.7 (4.0-4.4 kph)	Leisurely walk
Mod	2.8 to 3.3 (4.5-5.4 kph)	Average walking speed
Mod+	3.4 to 3.7 (5.5-6.0 kph)	Walking with purpose
Fast	>3.7 (>6.0 kph)	Fast walking, just before a slow jog

48. Gait when moving out

How easily the dog maintains a trot when moving quickly.

Score 1	Trots easily and maintains trot
Score 2	Paces and trots, can't maintain a trot
Score 3	Paces mostly, difficulty trotting

49. Housebreaking problems

Frequency at which dog eliminates in the home or when confined to a crate assuming the dog is given appropriate opportunity to eliminate and does not have a medical condition impacting the dog's ability to control elimination under normal circumstances.

Absent	Never eliminates in the home or crate
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Very mild	Very rarely eliminates in the home or crate and the tendency to do so has improved substantially and is unlikely to present a problem in the future. Rarely is no more often than once in 3 month for dogs 4 months and older
Mild	Occasionally eliminates in the home or crate and the tendency to do so has improved substantially and is unlikely to present a problem in the future. Greater than once every three months but no more than once a month for dogs 4 months and older
Moderate	Often eliminates in the home or crate. The dog is unreliable unless closely managed. 2-4 times a month for dogs 4 months and older
Severe	Routinely eliminates in the home or crate. The dog is unreliable and attempts to establish a predictable elimination schedule have failed. More often than 4 times a month for dogs 4 months and older.

50. Innate desire to work

Lacks intrinsic drive and motivation to learn tasks and be engaged with the handler.

Absent	Strong intrinsic eagerness and motivation to learn tasks and be engaged with the handler.
Very mild	Very mild lack of intrinsic eagerness and motivation to learn tasks and be engaged with the handler. Handler
Mild	Mild lack of intrinsic eagerness and motivation to learn tasks and be engaged with the handler.
Moderate	Moderate lack of intrinsic eagerness and motivation to learn tasks and be engaged with the handler.
Severe	Severe lack of intrinsic eagerness and motivation to learn tasks and be engaged with the handler.

51. Avoidance of exhaust from vehicles

Absent	No fear or apprehension when approaching exhaust from vehicles
Very mild	Very mild signs of avoidance when approaching exhaust from vehicles. Stays on task. Signs may include slight hesitancy, very mild hurrying or very mild moving away and/or mildly tense body language.
Mild	Mild signs of avoidance when approaching exhaust from vehicles Stays on task and improves with subsequent exposure without encouragement from handler. Signs may include mild hesitancy, mild transient compression, mild hurrying, mild moving away and/or moderately tense body language.
Moderate	Moderate signs of avoidance when approaching exhaust from vehicles. Requires encouragement to stay on task. Signs may include balking on approach, hurrying, slowing down dramatically, moderate moving away.
Severe	Fearful when approaching exhaust from vehicles. Does not stay on task Signs may include strong hesitancy, hurrying, balking or refusal, strong pulling way and/or very tense body language.

52. Whines excessively

Absent	Never or very rarely briefly whines.
Very mild	Infrequently whines for brief periods, readily stops without additional support or handler intervention.
Mild	Often whines for brief periods, stops with minimal support or handler intervention.
Moderate	Whines very frequently and mildly persistently, moderate support or handler intervention will reduce whining.
Severe	Whines very frequently and very persistently, moderate support or handler intervention does not significantly reduce whining.