

TEMPERAMENT TEST---TEST OF CHARACTERISTICS FOR BREEDING

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Part 2: SV Temperament Test Procedure.

During the whole course of the test the handler may not carry any motivating article.

1. IMPERTURBABILITY

	ID Check	Dentition Check	Measuring on Platform
Normal Dog	Good-natured, relaxed, balanced, neutral, confident, easily handled	Good-natured, relaxed, balanced, neutral, confident, easily handled	Good-natured, relaxed, balanced, neutral, confident, easily handled
Negative Grade -1	Slightly influenced, draws back and somewhat nervous, occasionally threatening, just handleable.	Slightly influenced, draws back and somewhat nervous, occasionally threatening, just handleable.	Slightly influenced, draws back and somewhat nervous, occasionally threatening, just handleable.
Negative Grade -2	Significantly upset, anxious, shy, not handleable.	Significantly upset, anxious, shy, not handleable.	Significantly upset, anxious, shy, not handleable.

IDENTITY CHECK: Dog is on the lead. Dog stands freely on a loosely held lead. No handler-influence (no touching)

DENTITION CHECK & CHECK OF ENTIRETY FOR MALES: Dog is on the lead. Check of the bite by the officiating judge

MEASURING ON PLATFORM: Dog moves on to the board on a loose lead. When the dog is standing on the board the handler can hold the dog for measuring. Minimal influence by the handler

2. SOCIABILITY

	Relationship/ communication between dog and handler	Behaviour in a group of people	Encounter with a strange dog
Positive Grade +2	Strong, close bond, happy, mentally alert, very balanced and confident		
Positive Grade +1	Very good bond, alert, happy with good temperament	Good-natured, happy, makes confident contact.	
Normal Dog	Alert, normal bond, calm, balanced	Good-natured, unperturbed and confident.	Good-natured, transparent, seeks contact, easily controllable (Command)
Negative Grade -1	Shows little bonding, slightly nervous, unsettled, little alertness.	Good-natured, slightly concerned and not confident, avoids contact	Good-natured, slightly affected, tense in contact
Negative Grade -1	No Bond, anxious, repressed and lacking confidence	Lacks confidence, anxious, threatening, shows marked avoidance behaviour	Lacks confidence, anxious, threatening, avoids contact

RELATIONSHIP DOG/HANDLER: Dog brought on lead. On direction of judge the dog is taken off lead. The handler distances himself by approximately 5 meters. The handler calls the dog to him (the dog can also follow free at the same time) then puts dog on lead. The dog is held on a loose lead by a strange person. The handler distances himself behind a group of people (minimum of four, maximum of eight). The handler calls the dog (the dog moves through the group or round the outside). Dog and handler move to the group

GROUP OF PEOPLE: The handler moves through the group with dog off-lead. On direction the dog is put on lead

INDIVIDUAL PERSON (GRADING SAME AS IN GROUP OF PEOPLE): On direction the handler moves to an individual. Greets the person

ENCOUNTER WITH STRANGE DOG (OLDER, GOOD-NATURED AND EXPERIENCED) The dogs move towards each other and meet at a distance of approximately 4 metres. Commands are allowed.

3. PLAY AND PREY DRIVE

	Play Handler/Dog	Play Stranger/dog	Desire to Find (Time factor)	Play Drive Under Pressure
Positive Grade +2	Immediate, intensive, plays without compromise, dynamic, very energetic and sustained. Brings prey object to handler, surrenders prey, animates handler to carry on playing	Immediate, intensive, plays without compromise, dynamic, very energetic and sustained. Brings prey object to handler, surrenders prey, animates handler to carry on playing	Extremely persistent, energetic, purposeful	
Positive Grade +1	Plays convincingly, forceful, energetic and very sustained. Comes back to the area with prey-object but only surrenders unwillingly	Plays convincingly, forceful, energetic and very sustained. Comes back to the area with prey-object but only surrenders unwillingly	Pronounced, enduring, fairly purposeful	Convincing, active, self-confident, unperturbed, eats or plays
Normal Dog	Plays, sufficiently sustained, calm intensity, secures the play object but returns to handler only with considerable assistance	Plays, sufficiently sustained, calm intensity, secures the play object but returns to steward only with considerable assistance	Interested, active for a short time, needs a little support	Only briefly perturbed, quickly stabilised, eats or plays
Negative Grade -1	Hardly plays, little interest, not sustained, secures prey drive, does not return to handler	Hardly plays, little interest, not sustained, secures prey drive, does not return to steward/handler	Weakly evident, activity lessens quickly	Not confident, restrained, does not eat or play
Negative Grade -2	Does not play, no interest, lethargic, prey object is uninteresting	Does not play, no interest, lethargic, prey object is uninteresting	Shows no interest, cannot be motivated	

The handler receives from the Judge's assistant a previously provided motivating article e.g. a bite-roll with straps of minimum 30 cm, maximum 50 cm.

PLAY HANDLER/DOG: The handler plays with his dog off-lead.

PLAY STRANGER/DOG: The handler throws the plaything to a person (Judge's assistant) who is a stranger to the dog about 5 metres away. The handler releases his dog. The dog goes to the strange person and demands its plaything. The dog gains the plaything. The handler puts the dog on the lead and takes up the motivating article.

DESIRE TO FIND: The handler plays briefly with the dog and then, in sight of the dog, puts the plaything in a stable closed container. The dog is taken off the lead. Description of the behaviour (intensity and time) at the box. The judge ends the test and the handler takes up the plaything.

'WOBBLE' TABLE—EXPRESSION OF DRIVES UNDER PRESSURE: The 'wobble' table has the following construction: Standard-size Euro-palette with planks/boards on the top-side and a wooden pole (approximate diameter 5 cm) underneath. The dog is led onto the 'table' on a loose lead (Commands are allowed). After the instability is experienced (the dog is still standing on the board) the dog is offered alternatively the plaything or food.

4. CONFIDENCE IN MOVEMENT

	'WOBBLE' TABLE MOTOR FUNCTION	SMOOTH SURFACE (SILK-SCREEN PRINTING BOARD 120x 80 cms WITH BROOM STICKS –MOVEABLE)	TWO TABLES WITH GAP
Positive Grade +1	Convincing, active, self-confident, unperturbed, confident motor-function	Convincing, active, self-confident, unperturbed, confident motor-function	Convincing, active, self-confident, unperturbed, confident motor-function
Normal Dog	Only briefly affected, quickly gains stability	Confident, only briefly affected, quickly shows confident motor-function again	Confident, only briefly affected, quickly shows confident motor-function again
Negative Grade -1	Uncertain, restrained, clearly restricted motor-function	Uncertain, restrained, clearly restricted motor-function	Uncertain, restrained, clearly restricted motor-function
Negative Grade -2	Refusal	Refusal	Refusal

TABLES: Tables (e.g. three beer-tables) stable, the top surface must be so constituted that the dog can come to a halt. A gap is determined between the second and third table (approx. 5-15 cms). The dog is on a loose lead (commands are allowed) and is led to the table. Jumping onto it is possible, lifting up is usual. Brief pause, then move in direction of the gap. Jump or lift down.

5. BASIC TEMPERAMENT

	BEHAVIOUR OF DOG LEFT ALONE (5 MINUTES)
Positive Grade +2	Calm, confident contact, alert, transparent, unperturbed
Positive Grade +1	Good-natured, calm, composed, waits expectantly
Normal Dog	Slightly unsettled, very alert, conciliatory, stabilises in time
Negative Grade -1	Very unsettled, nervous, holds back, submissive
Negative Grade -2	No confidence, anxious, aggressive, panicky

The dog is tied up in a suitable place by the handler, no commands given to stay, and the handler moves to a distance away out of sight of the dog. After five minutes approximately the Assessor approaches near to the dog with normal deportment and movement. Eventually the Assessor talks to the dog. (The assessment should proceed in a place unfamiliar to the dog, on no account on the training ground).

6. NOISE SENSITIVITY

	INDIFFERENCE TO GUN-SHOT	SOURCE OF NOISE/ENGINE NOISE	SOURCE OF NOISE/CHAIN
Positive Grade +2		Reacts calmly, is alert, seeks out source independently, is unaffected	Reacts calmly, is alert, seeks out source independently, is unaffected
Positive Grade +1		Briefly reactive, quickly stabilises, seeks out source, succeeds with assistance, is unaffected	Briefly reactive, quickly stabilises, seeks out source, succeeds with assistance, is unaffected
Normal Dog	Neutral, unaffected	Marked reaction, stabilises again, seeks out source with significant help, remains slightly affected	Marked reaction, stabilises again, seeks out source with significant help, remains slightly affected
Negative Grade -1	Slightly affected, unsettled (shot-sensitive)	Sensitive reaction, unsettled, composes itself only with difficulty and help, remains cautious	Sensitive reaction, unsettled, composes itself only with difficulty and help, remains cautious
Negative Grade -2	Gun-shy, anxious, panics.	Marked over-reaction, anxious, panics, avoidance behaviour, very uncertain, disturbed	Anxious, panics, avoidance behaviour, very uncertain, disturbed

INDIFFERENCE TO GUN-SHOT: Dog is held on a loose lead. The Assessor stands approx. 15 paces in front of dog and fires two shots at an interval of approx. 3 seconds (blanks—6mm).

NOISE SOURCE/ENGINE: For this assessment the following sources of noise can be used: Lawn mower, seated mower, generator, motor vehicle (Auto, moped etc). The dog stands on a loose lead, in the immediate vicinity of the source of noise, which undergoes a variation, through stepping on the accelerator and also using the horn (switching on or off).

NOISE SOURCE/CHAIN: The handler runs in the designated direction with his dog on a loose lead. On the direction of the Assessor the noise-source is triggered.

The temperament test is conceived as a separate, independent event, which, for example can be connected to the date of the Körung.

THESE REGULATIONS MUST BE READ WITH THE FIRST PART OF THIS ARTICLE IN MIND (SEE FEBRUARY ISSUE). PARTICULARLY ‘THE TESTED DOGS MUST NOT BE HANDLED IN OBEDIENCE MODE’. COMMANDS MUST BE LIMITED TO THE MOST NECESSARY ONLY.

[The test is being piloted during 2015 in five areas in Germany, when it is then expected to be implemented generally. It will be interesting to see if the supporters of the WUSV clubs will be prepared to encourage the test. *BHW*]