

SFI PET THERAPY CERTIFICATION
INITIAL EVALUATION ITEMS
for Dogs

SECTION A - TEMPERAMENT

The following 8 tests must be passed without overt display of inappropriate behavior. Inappropriate behaviors include but are not limited to: excessive growling, hissing, raising of lips in a snarl, biting, clawing, attempts to drag handler away, continuously backing up, excessive urination, excessive whining/crying, and/or two or more of the following: raised fur, flattened ears, stiff-legged posture.

1. APPROACH VARIATION _____
Pet sits or stands beside handler while a person moves towards them in each of the following manners:
 - Approaches quickly or at a fast pace
 - Approaches with an unsteady gait
 - Approaches from behind.

2. EXAMINATION/PETTING/HUGGING _____
Pet is touched in a variety of ways and from a variety of approaches by both the handler and the evaluator. Pet may stand or sit in place while evaluator approaches and performs the following:
 - Vigorous petting
 - Patting on top of head
 - Tugging of fur/hair
 - Gentle examination by hand of ears, eyes, mouth, tail and paws
 - Hugging/Touching - Evaluator will hug the pet. For small animals this will include being picked up and being held close to the evaluator's body and being placed back down.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL DISTRACTIONS _____
Pet is presented with the following distractions to simulate occurrences possible in the therapy/visitation environment:
 - Person wearing hat
 - Dropped crutch
 - Beeper
 - Person yelling loudly

4. INTRODUCTION TO ANOTHER ANIMAL _____
Pet is introduced to one or more non-aggressive animals and will be asked to approach the animal and be approached from a series of positions, including from the front and behind, standing in a nose-to-posterior position, and standing in a side-by-side position at a proximity of 3-4 feet. Test is failed if pet lunges out of handler's control in an attempt to flee or attack the other animal.

5. MEDICAL ARTICLES _____
Pet will be presented with medical articles that he or she might encounter during a pet visit. These will include crutches and/or a walker and wheelchair, which will be moved and/or dropped in the pet's presence. Evaluator or evaluator's assistant will use apparatus while approaching the pet. For small dogs or pigs, handlers will be required to either place pet on a towel in evaluator's lap while evaluator sits in the wheelchair, or handler will hold animal in arms, close enough for evaluator to reach for petting.

6. INTEREST IN INTERACTION _____
Pet will be asked to approach a human and demonstrate at least minimal interest in interacting without being forced or coerced.

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7. COMFORT IN A CROWD _____
Pet will be in close proximity to at least three people or two people and one dog who will interact with each other in the presence of the pet, surrounding the pet at times.
8. APPEARANCE _____
Pet must not have any of the following conditions:
- Long nails
 - Dirty or mangy coat
 - Signs of rashes or any other skin condition

SECTION B – OBEDIENCE

1. QUIET TIME _____
Pet will sit or lie down beside handler for a period of 3 minutes. During this time pet must be relatively quiet and calm. This test can be conducted during the period where the evaluator reviews information with the handler.
2. BASIC COMMANDS (for canines only) _____
The dog must be able to do the following:
- Sit - Dog must sit on command
 - Stay & Recall - Dog is put into a stay on a 6-foot leash then handler walks to the end of the leash and calls the dog to them.
3. HANDLER CONTROL _____
Handler must show ability to control his/her pet by maintaining possession of the pet at all times and displaying constant awareness of where his/her pet is. The following are not permitted at any time during the evaluation:
- Pet pulls the leash from handler's grip
 - Pet jumps out of handler's embrace and handler does not gain immediate repossession
 - Pet physically attacks another animal
 - Pet jumps on a person
- If the pet is on a leash or lead, handler will walk the pet on a brief course around the room which must include two turns and a stop at the end. The pet must walk on a loose leash without lunging forward or dragging behind. For canines, a leash longer than 6 feet is not permitted.
4. LEAVE IT (for canines only) _____
Dog is placed in a sit or down stay. A desired food item is placed one foot in front of the dog. The dog must be able to "leave it" on command. The handler must then walk the dog past the item demonstrating the same command.
5. TAKE IT (for canines only) _____
Dog is offered a food item and must be able to "take it" gently without excessive mouthing or contact with the evaluator's hand.