

Conclusion of Puppy Test 2020-01-26

Ekhöjdens P-Litter

Puppy Test Background and method

The main reason for conducting a puppy test from a breeder's perspective is as an attempt to predict the adult dog's behaviour at an early age. By predicting the adult dog's behaviour, the breeder gets a better opportunity to distribute the puppies in the best way but also the opportunity to advise and tips for continued training and development of the puppy.

The type of puppy test we have chosen to use in our breeding work is a version of the one developed at the "Hundskolan" in Sollefteå Sweden, by Lars Fält and others. This test describes the puppy's behavioral reaction in a five-point intensity scale for a total of seven parts.

Included parts is Isolation, Social ability, Pursue-game, Curiosity and courage, Playfulness, activity level and Sensitivity to sudden sound these are more closely described in the next chapter. We have chosen to carry out the tests at about 7.5 weeks of age on all litters, partly to be able to compare the results between our litters. However, it is important to adapt the time of the test to the activity periods of the puppies during the day.

The puppies are tested one at a time and the test leader should not have met the puppies before the test. The test must be carried out in such an undisturbed environment as possible without any distractions other than those included in the test. One element that we have chosen to extend from the original test is "Willingness to follow" where we want to see the puppy's interest and social commitment in the test leader.

Included parts and reaction description

Part 1a/b Isolation Time to first whine /scream

These parts are to show the puppy's anxiety/self-confidence and contact propensity. Long time to first whining and screams may mean that the puppy is relatively independent while shorter time may indicate that it is a more contact-seeking individual or have higher general anxiousness.

Gradation according to the table below.

Isolation, time to first whining	Isolation, time to first scream	Rating
< 10sek	< 30sek	1
10 - 29sec	30 sec - 59sec	2
30 - 59sec	1 - 1.59min	3
1 - 1.59min	2 - 3min	4
> 2min	> 3min	5

Part 2a Social Ability, Contact with unknown person

The part intends to describe the puppy 's contact reception, greeting on a passive unknown test leader.

Part 2b Social Ability, Willingness to follow

This is a part that we have chosen to complement the test with, in order to see the willingness and interest in engaging in the person who is contacting the puppy.

Gradation according to the table below.

Contact to an unknown person	willingness and interest in engaging	Rating
The puppy is pulling away.	Do not follow despite several attempts to attract. Not tested in this part.	1
The puppy is pulling away but accept Test leader to take contact.	Follows the Test leader reluctantly.	2
The puppy is pulling away but takes some later contact with Test leader.	Follows but is not involved the Test leader.	3
The puppy takes contact calmly and without hesitation.	Follow willingly and engages with balance in the Test leader.	4
Takes contact with high intensity, jumps, whines.	Follow willingly but is excessively involved in the Test leader.	5

Part 2C Social Ability, Self-confidence

This is also a part that we have chosen to complement the test with, in order to see the puppy's self-confidence when it gets hold and lifted up by an unknown person.

Social Ability Self-confidence	Rating
The puppy does not get lifted up without strong protests.	1
The puppy lets itself be lifted up but under protest.	2
The puppy is neutral allowing itself to be hold and lifted up without protest	3
The puppy is engaged and allows himself to be hold and lifted up without protest.	4
The puppy is overly engaged, allowing himself to be hold and lifted up without protest.	5

Part 3a Pursue Game, delay

This part of the Puppy test describes the puppy's delay to engage in a pursue game on a moving object. (Max time 3min.)

Part 3b Pursue Game, Interest

A continuation of 3a describing the puppy's interest in running after, grasping and retrieving a moving object.

Part 3a Jaktlek Delay	Moment 3b Pursue Game Interest	Rating
< 3min	The puppy does not run after the object, no interest.	1
2 – 3min	The puppy starts to pursue but does not catch the object.	2
1 – 2min	The puppy pursues and catch and hold the object but do not retrieve.	3
10 - 59sec	The puppy pursues and catch the object, retrieve with hesitation.	4
> 10sek	The puppy pursues and catch the object, retrieve with no hesitation 3 times.	5

Part 4 Curiosity and courage

In this part of the test, the puppy's curiosity and courage is described. A larger, unknown object shall be investigated by the puppy also the reaction is described.

Part 4 Curiosity and courage	Rating
The puppy does not investigate the object, does not pursue the object when rolled on the floor.	1
The puppy does not investigate the object, pursue the object when rolled but do not investigate it.	2
The puppy investigates the object, pursue the object when rolled and investigate it.	3
The puppy investigates the object, pursue and play with the object when rolled.	4
The puppy investigates the object, pursue starts to play with the object without help from the test leader.	5

Part 5 Playfulness, Willingness to bite and fight

This part of the test shall describe the puppy's tendency to participate and willingness to bite and fight.

Part 5 Playfulness, Willingness to bite and fight	Rating
The puppy does not engage himself in the game.	1
The puppy investigates the toy but do not engage himself in the fight.	2
The puppy bites and engage himself cautiously in the fight.	3
The puppy bites and engage himself in the fight. Holds or follow without releasing the grip.	4
The puppy bites and engage himself in the fight. Holds and shake the toy firmly without releasing the grip.	5

Part 6 Activity level

Intends to describe the puppy's activity level and curiosity about objects. Several objects are placed spread across the entire surface of the test area.

Part 6 Activity Level	Rating
The puppy is inattentive, uninterested, inactive	1
The puppy is attentive and calm, stands, sits or lies.	2
The puppy is attentive and essentially calm. Occasional activity increases. Investigates one or several objects.	3
The puppy is attentive but with increased activity or stress during the test. Investigates one or several objects.	4
The puppy is very active or stressed during the main part of the test.	5

Part 7 Sensitivity to sudden sounds

Intends to test the puppy's sensitivity to sudden noises. The test is carried out in connection with the social tug-of-war part and describe the puppy's ability to maintain interest in the bite and fight in the toy with the Test leader.

Part 7 Sensitivity to sudden sounds	Rating
The puppy pulls away, tries to escape.	1
The puppy interrupts the tug-of-war, stays but does not continue to bite and fight.	2
The puppy interrupts the tug-of-war but continue to bite and fight after a while.	3
The puppy interrupts the tug-of-war but continue to bite and fight after a while without help.	4
The puppy does not interrupt the tug-of-war.	5

Summary of results

The table and graph below show the results of the N-litter relative to the average of our previous litters (E, K, H, Ö, J, D, E3, N and S).

Please note that the "Sensitivity to sudden sounds" is inverted in relation to the other parts of the test, less sensitivity to sudden sounds gives a higher figure!

Part of Test	Behaviour reaction	E1-Litter (Average)	K1-Litter (Average)	H1-Litter (Average)	Ö-Litter (Average)	J-Litter (Average)	D-Litter (Average)	E3-Litter (Average)	N-Litter (Average)	S-Litter (Average)	P-Litter (Average)
Isolation	1a Time to first whine	2,3	3,2	3,2	3,0	2,8	3,3	4,6	4,4	5,0	4,0
	1b Time to first scream	4,1	3,2	3,2	3,9	3,0	3,6	5,0	4,6	5,0	4,0
Social Ability	2a Contact with unknown person	4,0	4,6	4,6	4,0	4,3	4,8	4,1	4,0	4,0	4,0
	2b Willingness to follow	4,0	4,0	4,0	4,0	4,0	4,0	4,0	4,0	4,0	4,2
Pursue Game	3a Willingness to pursue	5,0	5,0	5,0	5,0	5,0	5,0	5,0	5,0	5,0	4,8
	3b Willingness pursue and retrieve	4,9	4,9	4,9	4,7	5,0	4,7	5,0	5,0	3,0	4,7
Curiosity and Courage	4 Reaction on unknown object	4,7	5,0	5,0	4,6	5,0	4,6	4,9	4,5	5,0	4,7
Playfulness	5 Willingness to bite and fight	4,7	4,7	4,7	4,9	4,8	4,9	4,6	4,9	5,0	5,0
Activity level	7 Stress level	3,4	2,6	2,6	2,4	3,3	3,3	3,1	3,5	3,0	3,3
Sensitivity to sudden sounds	6 Sensitivity to sudden sound	4,3	4,8	4,8	4,9	4,8	4,7	5,0	4,8	5,0	5,0

