



Dog Temperament Assessment Test

Date Completed: 4/11/24

Dog Name : Nala

Owner/Handler : Malcom Foster, Headteacher

Location conducted : Bayford Primary School

Ashdene Road

Bayford Herts

SG 13 8 PX

14:30 test commenced test 14:30hrs in Headteacher's office

15:15 test completed

- 1) With handler, and dog on lead, in a room with door closed, assessor enters, approaching handler and ignoring dog, assess dog's reaction

Response:

Nala Came over to see me, friendly and happy, when no contact was offered she walked away.

- 2) With handler and dog on lead in the room, assessor then approaches dog and physically making a fuss of dog (e.g. ruffles ears, strokes back, pats dog), assess dog's reaction

Response:

No issues dog was happy with the contact.

3) Sit in chair and neutrally observe dog

Response:

She remained calm on her bed when in office when all was calm and nothing happening.

4) Talk in high-pitched/squeaky voice to dog for 30 seconds, stop and suddenly go neutral

Response:

Nala had a calm demeanour largely ignored me, remaining passive during this time.

5) Pet dog in a stroking motion from head to tail several times

Response:

No issue, no movement from the dog at all, was happy to be stroked.

6) Run hand down back leg and pick up hind foot

Response:

Again no issue, Nala allowed this without any movement or attempt to move away.

7) Run hand down dog's tail and tug slightly

Response:

This was allowed and largely ignored by the dog, no negative movement.

8) Touch and look inside both ears

Response:

This was allowed by the dog, there were no issues.

9) Apply slight pressure to the dog's shoulders

Response:

Again, Nala remain happy and passive allowing this to happen.

10) Move dog around by the collar

Response:

Nala was happy to be lead around by the collar, remaining calm and passive.

11) Wipe dog's body with a towel

Response:

This was allowed by the dog, without issue, again remaining still and calm whilst this was done.

12) Hug the dog

Response:

Nala was happy and allowed this without any issues.

13) With fingers either side of dog's muzzle, lift dog's lips to show teeth and hold for 5 seconds, assess dog's response (e.g. dog calmly accepts it; dog pulls away; dog growls/bites)

Response:

She was calm accepting this movement with no issues.

14) Approach dog from the rear

Response:

There was no movement from the dog who stayed laying in bed

15) Offer dog toy/ball and attempt to engage in play, assess dog's reaction

Response:

Largely ignored me with the toy, when this was completed with Dr Foster having the toy she played happily.

16) When dog is in possession of toy/ball, attempt to take it away and assess dog's reaction

Response:

No reaction allowed without issue.

17) Assessor takes lead from handler and assesses dog's reaction (e.g. calmly accepts it; jumps up at assessor; shies away)

Response:

Nala was happy to walk with me, having taken the lead from Dr Foster.

18) Assessor walks with dog beside them on the lead, assess dog's behaviour (e.g. calmly walks; jumps up at assessor; pulls on lead)

Response:

She walked happily, remaining calm at all times.

19) With dog on lead, let dog sniff/become interested in something for a few moments, give slight lead tug and verbal redirection, assess dog's reaction

Response:

Again there was no issues with this, when tugged she looked at me and came to me when called happily.

20) Enter a classroom with dog, allowing them to enter off the lead with verbal control by handler.

Response:

Nala was well controlled upon entering the classroom, we entered a variety of classes, she was allowed to be called to some of the children and was happy to be stroked and fussed.

21) Enter the playground with children running about and playing.

Response:

Nala was happy when being fussed and played with by small number of children, when this was by larger groups, she appeared a little insecure, no negative traits were shown.

Recommendation: Walk about with treat pouch, so children can ask for treat, then get a Nala to sit, before giving the treat, this will promote confidence in the dog around the children when in larger groups and will educate the children to be calm around her and other dogs.

Conclusion:

Overall Nala is a calm, sociable, happy and very friendly dog, she showed no negative tendencies throughout this or any of our earlier meetings. She is happy in the presence of other people, but does not seek out contact or interaction from persons when they are in the same room, throughout she remained calm and placid. Her nature makes her a good candidate for his current role as a school wellbeing dog.

These tests were conducted in a calm quiet location, in the head teacher's office as well as in calm classrooms, which had calm children present and outside in the playground with children running around and playing.

It is important to note that dogs are living breathing animals who will and can react to the environment in which they find themselves. A calm quiet environment is essential for the dog to feel secure and confident. Any dog should be removed to a safe neutral environment immediately if they are showing signs of stress or over excitement as these will effect the way the dog reacts to any given situation.

An appropriate and comprehensive insurance policy should be in place for the school wellbeing dog.

As always it is important to ensure any person who will come into contact with a school wellbeing dog has been appropriately briefed as to what is expected of them during the interaction and what they can expect in return from the dog.

Mark Tasker

Dog academy Ltd 11/11/24

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