



dreamcatcher™  
animal assisted  
wellness academy

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## Prepare Your Dog

### Therapy Animal and Aptitude Test for Behavior and Obedience

Dreamcatcher™ Animal Assisted Wellness Academy is committed to providing quality canine testing. You may schedule a test with us at any time to assess your dog's temperament and basic obedience, and to get a better understanding of the training your dog will require towards Canine Assisted Intervention (CAI) work.

To provide the most success for your dog during the test, we recommend your dog is socialized and desensitized to tactile and environmental stimuli, along with responding to basic obedience. If you believe your dog is not ready for the test, Dreamcatcher™ provides training classes and private consulting to prepare your dog towards testing and CAI certification. For more information, please contact [jess@dreamcatcherassociation.com](mailto:jess@dreamcatcherassociation.com).

### Preparing for the Therapy Animal Aptitude Test for Behaviour and Obedience

If you have booked a test with us, please ensure that your dog is mentally and physically ready to perform the test:

- ✓ Dog is not injured, ill, or under recovery
- ✓ Dog is not under any medication that will impede their focus or mobility
- ✓ Dog has not received any physical exercise before the test
- ✓ Dog not being fed before testing could result in arousal and fixation to treating during test, causing dog to behave more erratic, tense, or excitable. If your dog is not food/treat motivated, or fixated on food delivery, that is ok.
- ✓ Dog has not settled from a negative experience before testing (aggression or alteration with another dog or any sort of trauma that dog may have experienced)

The following is a list of the ways your animal will be touched and interacted with by our canine expert during your animals' upcoming screening. It is recommended that your animal is accustomed to being touched in these ways before his/her screening date.

1. **Basic Petting:** using a flat hand, palm down, stroke the animal three times from neck to tail base.
2. **Basic Petting:** using a flat hand, palm down, stroke the animal three times down the legs and under the stomach.
3. **Tail Petting:** stroke hand three times from the base of the tail, closing hand around the tail and stroking to the tip.



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4. **Ear Petting:** stroke hand three times from the base of each ear, closing hand around the ear and stroking to the tip.
5. **Teeth Check:** stroke hand three times from the nose to the top of the head; at the beginning of each stroke gently lift the lips to expose the teeth.
6. **Paw Stroke:** pick up each paw and hold for 3 seconds while stroking the top of the paw with your thumb.
7. **Sound Distraction:** clap two metal trays together once 10 feet away from the animal.
8. **Hold/Hug:** for small animals (under 15 pounds) pick up and hold the animal against the chest for 5 seconds. For large animals (above 15 pounds) kneel and hug the animal against the chest for 5 seconds.
9. **Blow in the Face:** hold the animal's collar and blow air gently onto their face from one foot away.
10. **Crowded Petting:** 2-3 people crowd around the animal, petting and talking.
11. **Escalated Human Behaviour:** jump around the animal clapping and singing the ABC song loudly.
12. **Fast movement near face:** move a flat hand, palm first, quickly towards the animal's face, stopping about 3 inches away.
13. **Table:** for small animals (under 15 pounds), place on table for basic petting.
14. **Solicited by Observer:** Observer approaches in friendly meet / greet manner
15. **Reaction to Neutral Animal:** another handler brings a neutral animal near the test animal and shakes the hand of the handler in testing. The animals should not be allowed to greet each other.
16. **Supervised Isolation:** tester holds the animal's leash while the handler leaves the room (out of the animal's sight) for 3 minutes before being asked to return.
17. **Walking on Leash:** handler walks animal on leash once around the room.
18. **Come When Called:** handler calls animal to come to them from 10 feet away.
19. **Leave it:** handler drops a treat on the ground in front of the animal and asks them to leave it.



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20. **Stay:** handler places animal in sit or down position and cues animal to stay. Handler walks 10 feet away and returns to the animal after 5 seconds.

21. **Drop it:** handler asks animal to release what they are holding in their mouth

22. **Sit:** handler asks animal to sit for 3 seconds

23. **Down:** handler asks animal to down for 3 seconds.

### **Important Information for the Day of Screening**

Although treats are NOT to be used by the owner during the screening, please bring some of your dog's favourite treats should the dog trainer require them during screening.

The screening will be conducted by our highly qualified dog trainer and our animal assisted therapy staff, strangers to the canine.

If you plan for your dog to take the test after a training class, play time, or off leash exposure at a park, please ensure your dog is settled and is accustomed to working after such interactions. If not, we strongly recommend your dog receive a break to settle and rest before the test. You may bring treats and toys to reward your dog during the test. The test takes 20 to 30 minutes long and is conducted by two professionals from the Canine Training team at Dreamcatcher.

**Good luck!**