

**THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT IS AN
EXERPT FROM THE MOONSTRUCK
BERNEODOODLES PUPPY 101 HANDBOOK
THAT COMES WITH EACH AND EVERY
MOONSTRUCK BERNEODOODLE.**

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Breeders

The breeding world is one that is clouded in mystery for the vast majority of people. However, this is where every puppy starts out (unless it was born under a dumpster). This is the place where your puppy got his beginning in life. What he was exposed to and what he learned with his breeder has a profound impact on his temperament, coping skills, trainability and more.

Here is a mildly terrifying statement:

There is no regulatory body for dog breeders, purebred or otherwise.

None. Nothing. Nada. Zip, Zilch. Anyone can do what



they want and say anything they want with virtually no consequences. This is a very serious problem, because the general public – you the puppy buyer – is not educated enough to hold these breeders accountable for their practices. This is one core reason why puppy mills still exist and do very well. No one

is really doing anything about it. If the market fell out of the bottom for these breeders, mills or backyard, they would stop breeding dogs. They would not be able to compete with those breeders who break their backs to ensure genetically healthy, mentally and physically sound puppies. Those that produce healthy amazing dogs should

be rewarded for doing so. Those that do not should be weeded out and shunned by consumers.

Health Testing

With the advances in genetic testing and availability and affordability offered to breeders, there is absolutely no reason why all breeding stock, of every breed, not be screened for the diseases that plague that particular breed. In most cases full screening (this includes x-rays for orthopedic disease and DNA analysis for anything you could want checked) costs less than \$800 per dog. We have the technology to ensure that we breed dogs that are as healthy as possible.

We have the capability to completely eradicate certain genetic diseases, like Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA). This is a group of genetic eye diseases that affects all dogs, purebred and crosses, that results in blindness. There is no treatment. However, it is completely preventable through DNA testing. There is no reason for a dog to go blind from PRA.



PRA blinded dog

It is a completely preventable disease. Yet, many, many breeders are not testing their breeding stock for this, and many other diseases that can be tested for. It is incredibly important that puppy buyers do their research and select a breeder who appropriately health tests their breeding dogs.

This ensures puppies will not suffer needlessly from preventable disease.

Temperament

While we are on the subject of breeders, it is important to touch base on the complicated subject of temperament. A dog's temperament is his personality. Temperament is a combination of nature (genetics) and nurture (environment/experiences). Inherent genetics define the boundaries of how a dog can learn or behave. Life experience shapes the overall resulting personality. To make this a little clearer: If a dog is born with a shy and nervous disposition it is who he is genetically. There is no amount of training or socializing that is going to make this dog an outgoing, bold and confident dog. However, this dog could either become a fearful, stressed out adult dog with no coping skills, or he could become a dog who is friendly and accepting of new situations, even if he is not the bravest dog. This nature vs. nurture. When working with an older puppy or an adult dog we have to determine if the temperament is due to the dog's inherent nature or the nurturing (training, socialization, life experience) that dog has or has not received.

Breeders are under no obligation to breed dogs with sound, stable temperaments. Obviously this statement is distressing and concerning. Purebred or not, there is no regulatory body that enforces temperament testing of breeding stock dogs. So, as you can imagine, there are a lot of dogs being bred that have questionable temperaments. There are some breed clubs that do have strict regulations that their members must follow when breeding, but they are few and far between and the breeder

is under no obligation to be a member of that particular club. The average pet person would have no idea the difference between the German Shepherd breeder that belongs to the *Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV)* and one that belongs to the *Canadian Kennel Club (CKC)*. Both breeders would be producing dogs that are registered pure bred dogs, but the breeding standards of the SV are light years in difference to the CKC breeding standards.

If you were in the market for a puppy, what would you rather your puppy have behind him? Generations of dogs that have not had any requirements of them other than

<h2 style="text-align: center;">German Shepherd Dog Registry Club Regulations for Breeding Stock</h2>		
	 Canadian Kennel Club	 Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde
Dog must be a registered purebred dog	✓	✓
Dog must possess a working title for temperament purposes		✓
Dog must possess a show title for conformation purposes		✓
Dog must pass minimum requirement health testing		✓
Dog must pass a fitness endurance test (20km bike ride) to ensure efficiency of structure		✓

being registered as purebred? Or dogs that have generations of structurally sound, healthy, well-tempered dogs behind them? Obviously, the answer is the latter. But how many people educate themselves about their breed and their breeder enough to know that they are getting a puppy that is from multiple generations of parents with great temperaments and good health scores? Very few people do the necessary research. Most people trust everything that the breeder tells them.

I met a breeder once who told me he could sell corn to a corn farmer... this unregulated industry must be held accountable by the consumer! No one else is going to do it.

Look for breeders who boast their dog's accomplishments. Dogs that possess show titles, obedience titles, agility titles, working titles (herding, hunting, tracking, etc.) Canine Good Neighbour/Citizen certificates, Temperament Test certifications... all of these and more help determine the trainability and nature of the dog. It is not a failsafe, but it most certainly helps. Dogs with unstable temperaments cannot easily achieve titles because they have to be in public, around other dogs, and people and be trainable enough to perform when they are out of their element.

Dogs that have temperament problems generally come from breeding stock that has temperament problems. The parents may not present, but it doesn't mean that their parents were sound, or that they came from a litter of puppies that had some temperament issues. Genetics is a funny thing. It can be carried down the lines and skip a generation etc. I know of puppies coming from litters of nice parents whose uncle was not too great. Some puppies of the litter grew up to have very similar issues to the

uncle. These were most certainly hereditary traits towards aggression. It was known that the uncle had issues that were identified as being an inherent temperament flaw. Dogs with close family member who have genetic temperament issues should not be bred to avoid the genes being propagated further. Yet it is done by breeders all of the time. Those that pay for these, very often purposeful, oversights are the owners and the dogs themselves who loses their families when they are given up on or worse, lose their lives.

Again, it is up to the consumer to know what they are looking for in an ethical, responsible and knowledgeable breeder. Not all breeders are created equal. Not all breeders really even know what they are talking about (especially when it comes to temperament), but they can sound like they do. The buyer usually isn't any the wiser. Education is the key to obtaining a great puppy!



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Temperament

Each and every person you have ever met in your lifetime is unique unto themselves. There never has been, nor ever will be again, someone like them... or someone like you!

This is due to the following factors:

Genetic Individuality & Personal Experiences

Even genetically identical twins have different personalities.



They can be similar, yes. This is because genetics dictate a baseline, BUT... those twins do not have the same personal experiences and it is one's experiences in life that shapes the attributes of their personality.

Dogs are no different. Your dog was born with a baseline temperament. A raw blob that is shaped and

formed as he experiences the world and life. Good experiences, bad experiences and the emotions associated with each occurrence will shape the dog's temperament and in turn his reactions to the world around him.

Temperament Traits

Activity -Activity refers to the dog's physical energy. Is the dog constantly moving or is the dog kind of lazy? A high energy dog needs more exercise and mental stimulation than a dog that is naturally less energetic or he will get into trouble and mischief. The active dog makes a better obedience dog, however, the training must be intense and committed.

Initial reaction- Initial reaction is also known as Approach or Withdrawal. This refers to how the dog responds (whether positively or negatively) to new people or environments. Does the dog approach people or things in the environment without hesitation, or is he more reserved. A bold dog tends to approach things quickly, as if without thinking, whereas a cautious dog typically prefers to be cautious while engaging in new experiences.

Adaptability- Adaptability refers to how long it takes the dog to adjust to change over time (as opposed to an initial reaction). Does the dog adjust to the changes in their environment easily, or is the dog resistant/shut down? A dog who adjusts easily may be quick to accept new situations, whereas a resistant dog may take a long time to adjust to a situation.

Intensity- Intensity refers to the energy level of a positive or negative response. Does the dog react intensely to a situation, or does he respond in a calmer manner? A more

intense dog may jump up pull extremely hard on the leash when stimulated, and bark in excitement. The calmer dog will be much more subdued even when stimulated/excited.

Distractibility- Distractibility refers to the dog's tendency to be sidetracked by other things going on around them. Does the dog get easily distracted by what is happening in the environment, or can the dog focus despite the distractions?

Persistence- Persistence refers to the dog's length of time on a task and ability to stay with the task through frustrations/distractions—whether the dog stays with an activity for a long period of time or loses interest quickly.

Identifying your dog's temperament traits is important for your training practices. If your dog is naturally very active and distractible you must ensure that your dog is receiving the appropriate level of exercise every day and your training sessions must start in non-stimulating environments and graduate to stimulating environments. This means class time will be harder for the beginner's obedience Active/Distracted dog, where as a calmer, less distractible dog will excel in a beginner's obedience class. When dogs have the appropriate training regime – one that accounts for their personality characteristics – they thrive and excel in obedience, regardless temperament attributes.

Temperament Labels

When we discuss a dog's temperament, we generally use broad terms to describe their overall temperament:

Dominant, Assertive, Submissive

Within these labels the dog can have a mixture of temperament traits. Not all dominant dogs are cut from the same cookie cutter, not all submissive dogs are shaped from the same mould.

Dominant dogs are ones that have a presence to them. They are generally pushy in their meetings with other dogs or bossy in their play. They can be quite demanding of attention from their owners and commonly possess temperament traits of higher energy, persistence, and adaptability.

Assertive dogs are middle of the road kind of guys. They are not dominant nor are they submissive. An assertive dog generally acts like a great big clown (Labs). They can be very, very excitable and hyper and love the attention they get for any behavior – good or bad. They are generally very adaptive to new environments or situations, approach with a positive attitude and make great obedience dogs due to their persistence for reward.

Submissive dogs are generally laid back individuals who take a thoughtful approach to life. They have a less intense nature. The submissive dog can lack self-confidence, which can be discovered through training exercises and the success of accomplishing tasks that have been presented to them. Although they can be overall less persistent, with a patient handler, they can shine at all they do.

Other Temperament Components

By now you are likely understanding that temperament is a very complicated subject. There are many components to

consider when trying to piece it all together. The more you understand the easier training your dog will be.

Nerve Level - Nerve levels are a genetically inherited component that has a direct effect on a dog's overall temperament. It is the dog's initial reaction and subsequent ability to cope with sudden and or unexpected stimulus. This is different than Adaptability because it is governed by the dog's nervous system not the brain.

Example:

Weak Nerves - Your dog is out for a walk with you around Halloween. Down the street a few kids set off a fire cracker, the kind that whistles first and then pops. This one is not very loud and it is down the street a ways. When the firecracker is set off your dog pins his ears back, tucks his tail and tries to run away. He becomes frantic, clawing at the sidewalk and trying desperately to get away. Another fire cracker is set off and your dog is having a meltdown. This poor dog has very weak nerves. You are unable to convince him that he is not going to die. He is unable to cope with and analyze this stimulus. All of his instincts are telling him to get away.

Strong Nerves- Your dog is out for the exact same walk in the exact same situation as described above. The firecracker goes off and your dog stops dead in his tracks. He looks in the direction of the noise and cocks his head. A second firecracker is set off, this time your dog is interested and quickens his step towards the noise or maybe he just ignores it. This dog has strong nerves. He is able to stop, analyze the situation, and determine that this noise is not threatening (yet anyways).

Nerve Test You are going to determine your dog's natural nerve level with the following test:

- 1.** Get a metal can, (like a soup can or paint can) fill it full of metal objects that will make a loud noise when you shake the can (pennies, nuts and bolts). Do not let your dog see this can.
- 2.** Let your dog out in the back yard to roam around. When your puppy is not paying attention, get your can and rush out shaking it like crazy to make a loud noise that lasts 5 seconds. Don't say anything.
- 3.** Place the can on the ground and walk away 15-20 feet. Observe your dog's reaction.

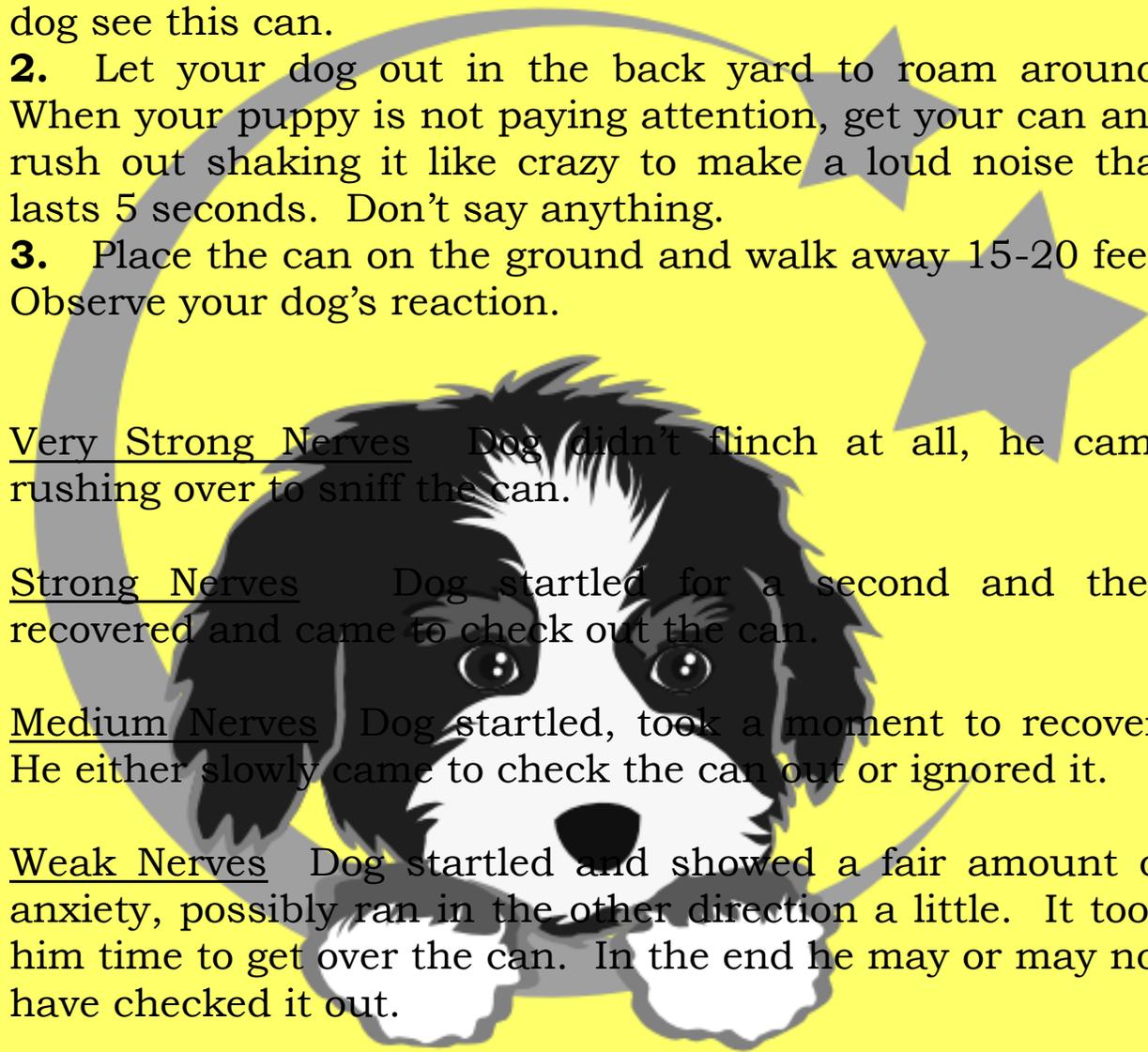
Very Strong Nerves Dog didn't flinch at all, he came rushing over to sniff the can.

Strong Nerves Dog startled for a second and then recovered and came to check out the can.

Medium Nerves Dog startled, took a moment to recover. He either slowly came to check the can out or ignored it.

Weak Nerves Dog startled and showed a fair amount of anxiety, possibly ran in the other direction a little. It took him time to get over the can. In the end he may or may not have checked it out.

Very Weak Nerves (Thin Nerves) Dog "Freaked Out" and ran. He was very, very upset. Possibly hid. Wanted *nothing* to do with the can.



It is important to identify your dog's nerve level so you can better understand your dog's needs when training.

Discomfort Tolerance- Every dog has a varied response to discomfort. A dog that has a greater tolerance for discomfort is known as a "Hard Dog". A dog that shows more sensitivity to discomfort is referred to as being a "soft dog". We measure a dog's tolerance for discomfort on a scale of 1-5:

HARD...5...4...3...2...1...SOFT

Hard Dog Hard dogs are not necessarily tough or dominant dogs. A perfect example is the Golden Retriever. Most people view Golden Retrievers as being sucky, lovey family dogs. This is very true. Most Golden Retrievers embody those characteristics. However, Golden Retrievers are some of the "hardest" or most stoic dogs that I have ever encountered. In respects to obedience, hard dogs are more forgiving of mistakes made by the handler as these dogs don't take corrections "personally".

Soft Dogs Are physically very sensitive to discomfort. They often dramatically overreact when they hurt themselves. In obedience training, corrections must be kept mild to avoid scaring the dog or shutting him down.

The easiest way to quickly determine your dog's discomfort tolerance is the *Pinch the Paw Test*. Yes, it sounds mean... your dog will get over it, I promise!

1. Have a very yummy treat ready in your pocket, not in your hand.

2. Take one of your dog's front paws and pinch the webbing between the toes with the intent of discomfort. Do not pinch with all of your strength, but do not be a "wiener" and hold back either.

3. Count to 10. Stop pinching and counting when your dog vocalizes (this can be a little whine even). When he does vocalize tell him "Good Dog" and give him the special treat in your pocket. (ha, ha, you're so mean, you pinched your dog!)

If you counted to 10 and your dog didn't vocalize or dramatically try to pull away, he is a 5 on the Hard to Soft scale. If you only counted to 2 he is a 1 on the Hard to Soft scale. Anything in-between is in-between on the Hard to Soft scale.

Additional Note: If your dog started screaming or throwing a fit before you even tried to pinch him, this is NOT an indication of softness; it is an indication of brattiness towards you. Your dog thinks that he can control you by throwing a fit. This has very likely worked in the past. This (usually) is a relationship issue that needs addressing.

Temperament Testing

One very good sign that a breeder is knowledgeable is whether or not they perform temperament tests on their puppies to help better match each puppy to their potential families. There are several testing methods available to breeders to help them determine their puppies' strengths and weaknesses. A puppy should NEVER EVER be chosen based on looks alone. It may be the completely wrong puppy for the family who wants it.



These black German Shepherd puppies may all look the same, but inside their minds they are all unique individuals with personality differences. One may be very bossy and a handful, while the other may be more low key and easy going. Another may tend towards micro-focusing on a specific toy (obsessive tendencies) while another can't choose which toy he wants to play with.

Far too many breeders allow their clients to choose their puppies. What's worse? They are allowing them to choose the puppies at birth or within the first few weeks. Most puppy buyers chose their dog based on markings or size or sex. A puppy buyer may choose the most stunning dog in the litter and think they are so lucky to have such a beautiful dog, but later they find that they chose a dog that was too difficult for them to handle. Looks are not everything. Choosing the wrong temperament for your lifestyle your own personality and your dog experience level can be detrimental to the relationship you have with your dog. It is the breeder's job as a professional to guide their puppy buyers into the right choice by educating them on the selection process, what traits to be looking for in a possible candidate and then matching the right puppy to

the right buyer. Sadly, the vast majority of breeders are under educated in their chosen career/hobby. They are completely incapable of performing a proper temperament test (if they even know what a temperament test is) OR they are driven by the market and do not want to lose a sale to the next breeder who said the buyer could choose their puppy as young as 1 or 2 weeks old. Again, this is why it is so important to choose the right breeder. Support breeders who propagate lasting relationships! This helps keep dogs out of shelters and saves lives!

Puppy Aptitude Tests (PAT)

Your puppy is not a baby any more, but you are likely interested in what some of his core temperament traits are. The more you understand about your dog the easier



This Lab puppy has a natural retrieve which is desirable for being a Duck Dog

training becomes and the better your relationship will be.

Baby puppies should not undergo evaluation prior to 49 days (7 weeks) old. It is at this point that a puppy's personality has fully developed and reactions to situations/stimulus can be accurately interpreted. Post 49ish days and the test results become

more and more skewed as the puppy gathers more and

more life experiences which contribute to how they react to situations/stimulus.

Nevertheless, it will give you an idea of what temperament traits your puppy leans towards. Knowing your puppy's strong points and weak points will help direct your training and socialization curriculum.



WHAT IS PUPPY TESTING?

Some of the tests we use were developed as long ago as the 1930's for dogs bred to become Guide Dogs. Then in the 1950's, studies on puppies were done to determine how quickly they learned. These studies were actually done to identify children's learning stages.

Top Dog Tips: The ideal age to test the puppy is at 49 days of age when the puppy is neurologically complete and it has the brain of an adult dog. With each passing day after the 49th day the responses will be tainted by prior learning.

Later on in the early 60's more tests were developed to determine if pups could be tested for dominance and submission. These tests determined that it was indeed possible to predict future behavioral traits of adult dogs by testing puppies at 49 days of age. Testing before or after that age, effected the accuracy of the test, depending on the

time before or after the 49th day.

We took these tests, added some of our own, and put together what is now known as the Volhard Puppy Aptitude Test, or PAT. PAT uses a scoring system from 1-6 and consists of ten tests. The tests are done consecutively and in the order listed. Each test is scored separately, and interpreted on its own merits. The scores are not averaged, and there are no winners or losers. The entire purpose is to select the right puppy for the right home.

The tests are as follows:

- 1. Social Attraction** - degree of social attraction to people, confidence or dependence.
- 2. Following** - willingness to follow a person.
- 3. Restraint** - degree of dominant or submissive tendency, and ease of handling in difficult situations.
- 4. Social Dominance** - degree of acceptance of social dominance by a person.
- 5. Elevation** - degree of accepting dominance while in a position of no control, such as at the veterinarian or groomer.
- 6. Retrieving** - degree of willingness to do something for you. Together with Social Attraction and Following a key indicator for ease or difficulty in training.
- 7. Touch Sensitivity** - degree of sensitivity to touch and a key indicator to the type of training equipment required.
- 8. Sound Sensitivity** - degree of sensitivity to sound, such as loud noises or thunderstorms.
- 9. Sight Sensitivity** - degree of response to a moving object, such as chasing bicycles, children or squirrels.
- 10. Stability** - degree of startle response to a strange object.

During the testing make a note of the heart rate of the pup, which is an indication of how it deals with stress, as well as its energy level. Puppies come with high, medium or low energy levels. You have to decide for yourself, which suits your life style. Dogs with high energy levels need a great deal of exercise, and will get into mischief if this energy is not channeled into the right direction.

Finally, look at the overall structure of the puppy. You see what you get at 49 days age. If the pup has strong and straight front and back legs, with all four feet pointing in the same direction, it will grow up that way, provided you give it the proper diet and environment in which to grow. If you notice something out of the ordinary at this age, it will stay with puppy for the rest of its life. He will not grow out of it.

HOW TO TEST

Here are the ground rules for performing the test:

- The testing is done in a location unfamiliar to the puppies. This does not mean they have to be taken away from home. A 10-foot square area is perfectly adequate, such as a room in the house where the puppies have not been.
- The puppies are tested one at a time.
- There are no other dogs or people, except the scorer and the tester, in the testing area
- The puppies do not know the tester.
- The scorer is a disinterested third party and not the person interested in selling you a puppy.
- The scorer is unobtrusive and positions him or herself so he or she can observe the puppies' responses without

having to move.

- The puppies are tested before they are fed.
- The puppies are tested when they are at their liveliest.
- Do not try to test a puppy that is not feeling well.
- Puppies should not be tested the day of or the day after being vaccinated.
- Only the first response counts!

Top Dog Tips: During the test, watch the puppy's tail. It will make a difference in the scoring whether the tail is up or down.

The tests are simple to perform and anyone with some common sense can do them. You can, however, elicit the help of someone who has tested puppies before and knows what they are doing.

Top Dog Tips: During testing maintain a positive, upbeat and friendly attitude toward the puppies. Try to get each puppy to interact with you to bring out the best in him or her. Make the test a pleasant experience for the puppy.



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1. Social Attraction - the owner or caretaker of the puppies places it in the test area about four feet from the tester and then leaves the test area. The tester kneels down and coaxes the puppy to come to him or her by encouragingly and gently clapping hands and calling. The tester must coax the puppy in the opposite direction from where it entered the test area. Hint: Lean backward, sitting on your heels instead of leaning forward toward the puppy. Keep your hands close to your body encouraging the puppy to come to you instead of trying to reach for the puppy.

Response – Social Attraction	Score
<i>Came readily, tail up, jumped, bit at hands</i>	1
<i>Came readily, tail up, pawed, licked at hands</i>	2
<i>Came readily, tail up</i>	3
<i>Came readily, tail down</i>	4
<i>Came hesitantly, tail down</i>	5
<i>Didn't come at all</i>	6

2. Following - the tester stands up and slowly walks away encouraging the puppy to follow. Hint: Make sure the puppy sees you walk away and get the puppy to focus on you by lightly clapping your hands and using verbal encouragement to get the puppy to follow you. Do not lean over the puppy.

Response – Following	Score
<i>Followed readily, tail up, got underfoot, bit feet</i>	1
<i>Followed readily, tail up, got underfoot</i>	2
<i>Followed readily</i>	3
<i>Followed readily, tail down</i>	4
<i>Followed hesitantly, tail down</i>	5
<i>Did not follow or went away</i>	6

3. Restraint - the tester crouches down and gently rolls the puppy on its back and holds it on its back for 30 seconds. Hint: Hold the puppy down without applying too much pressure. The object is not to keep it on its back but to test its response to being placed in that position.

Response – Restraint	Score
<i>Struggled fiercely, flailed, bit</i>	1
<i>Struggled fiercely, flailed</i>	2
<i>Settled, struggled, settled with some eye contact</i>	3
<i>Struggled, then settled</i>	4
<i>No struggle</i>	5
<i>No struggle, strained to avoid eye contact</i>	6

4. Social Dominance - let the puppy stand up or sit and gently stroke it from the head to the back while you crouch beside it. See if it will lick your face, an indication of a forgiving nature. Continue stroking until you see a behavior you can score. Hint: When you crouch next to the puppy avoid leaning or hovering over the puppy. Have the puppy at your side with both of you facing in the same direction.

Response – Social Dominance	Score
<i>Jumped, pawed, bit, growled</i>	1
<i>Jumped, pawed</i>	2
<i>Cuddled up to tester and tried to lick face</i>	3
<i>Squirmed, licked at hands</i>	4
<i>Rolled over, licked at hands</i>	5
<i>Went away and stayed away</i>	6

5. Elevation Dominance - the tester cradles the puppy with both hands, supporting the puppy under its chest and gently lifts it two feet off the ground and holds it there for 30 seconds.

Response – Elevation Dominance	Score
<i>Struggled fiercely, tried to bite</i>	1
<i>Struggled fiercely</i>	2
<i>Struggled, settled, struggled, settled</i>	3
<i>No struggle, relaxed</i>	4
<i>No struggle, body stiff</i>	5
<i>No struggle, frozen</i>	6

6. Retrieving - the tester crouches beside the puppy and attracts its attention with a crumpled up piece of paper. When the puppy shows some interest, the tester throws the paper no more than four feet in front of the puppy encouraging it to retrieve the paper.

Response – Retrieving	Score
<i>Chased object, picked it up and ran away</i>	1
<i>Chased object, stood over it and did not return</i>	2
<i>Chased object, picked it up and returned with it</i>	3
<i>Chased object and returned without it</i>	4
<i>Started to chase object, lost interest</i>	5
<i>Does not chase object</i>	6

7. Touch Sensitivity – the tester locates the webbing of one of the puppy’s front paws and presses it lightly between his index finger and thumb. The tester gradually increases pressure while counting to 10 and stops when the puppy pulls away or shows signs of discomfort.

Response – Touch Sensitivity	Score
<i>8 – 10 count before response</i>	1
<i>6 – 8 count before response</i>	2
<i>5 – 6 count before response</i>	3
<i>3 – 5 count before response</i>	4
<i>2 – 3 count before response</i>	5
<i>1 – 2 count before response</i>	6

8. Sound Sensitivity – the puppy is placed in the centre of the testing area and an assistant stationed at the perimeter makes a sharp noise, such as banging a metal spoon on the bottom of a metal pan.

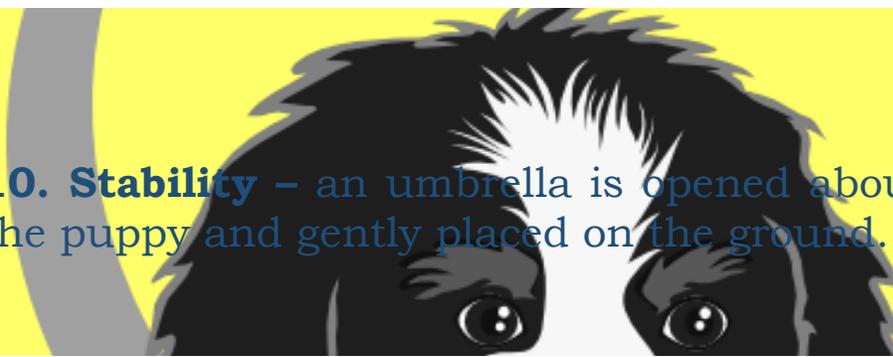
Response – Sound Sensitivity	Score
<i>Listened, located sound and ran toward it, barking.</i>	1
<i>Listened, located sound and walked slowly toward it, may be barking.</i>	2
<i>Listened, located sound and showed curiosity.</i>	3
<i>Listened and located sound</i>	4
<i>Cringed, backed off and hid behind tester</i>	5
<i>Ignored sound and showed no curiosity</i>	6

9. Sight Sensitivity – the puppy is placed in the centre of the testing area. The tester ties a string around a bath towel and jerks it across the floor, two feet away from the puppy.

Response – Sight Sensitivity	Score
<i>Looked, attacked and bit object</i>	1
<i>Looked, put feet on object and put mouth on it</i>	2
<i>Looked with curiosity and attempted to investigate, tail up</i>	3
<i>Looked with curiosity, tail down</i>	4
<i>Ran away or hid behind tester</i>	5
<i>Hid behind tester</i>	6

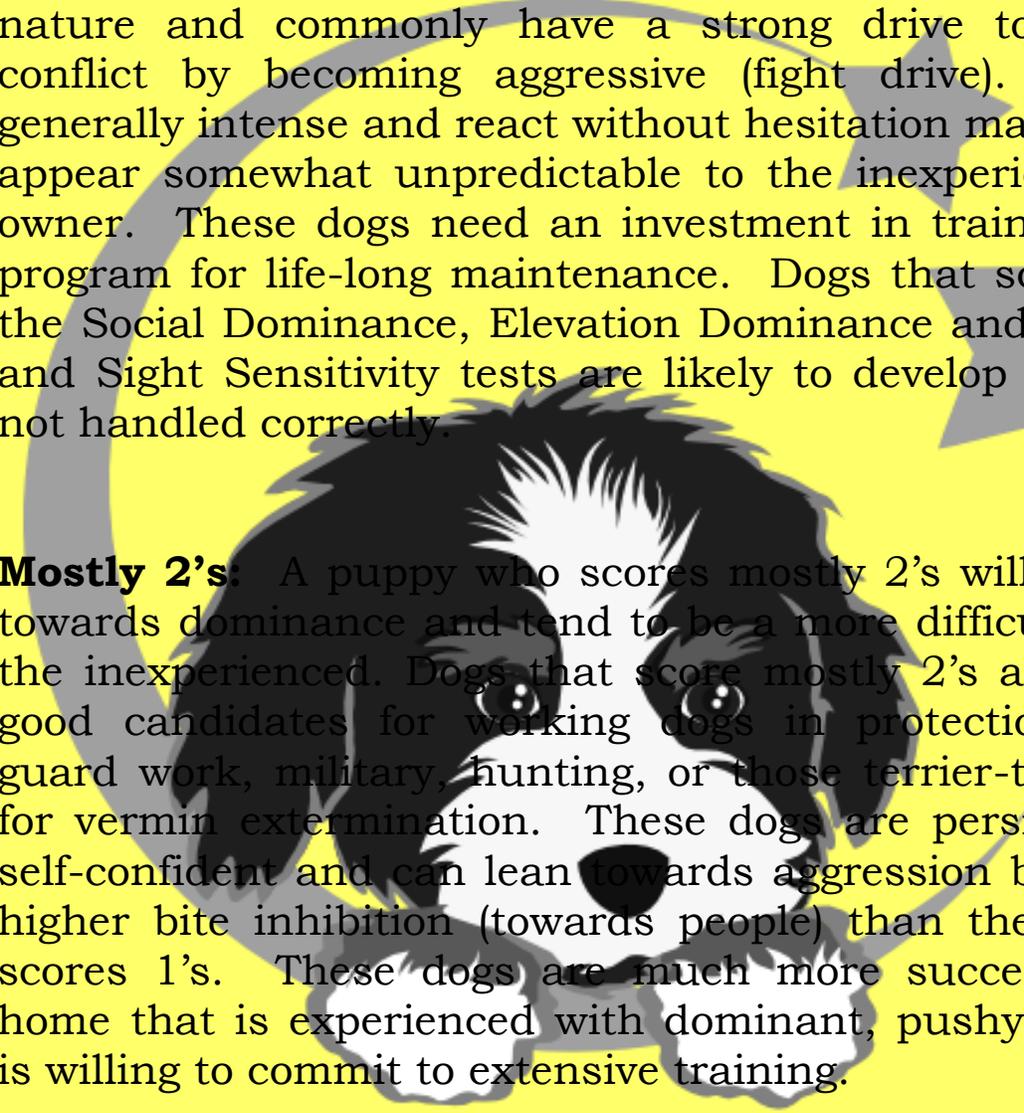
10. Stability – an umbrella is opened about five feet from the puppy and gently placed on the ground.

Response – Stability	Score
<i>Looked and ran to the umbrella mouthing or biting it</i>	1
<i>Looked and walked to the umbrella, smelling it</i>	2
<i>Looked and went to investigate investigate, tail up</i>	3
<i>Sat and looked but did not move toward umbrella</i>	4
<i>Ran away from the umbrella</i>	5
<i>Showed very little or no interest in the umbrella</i>	6



Value of the Scores

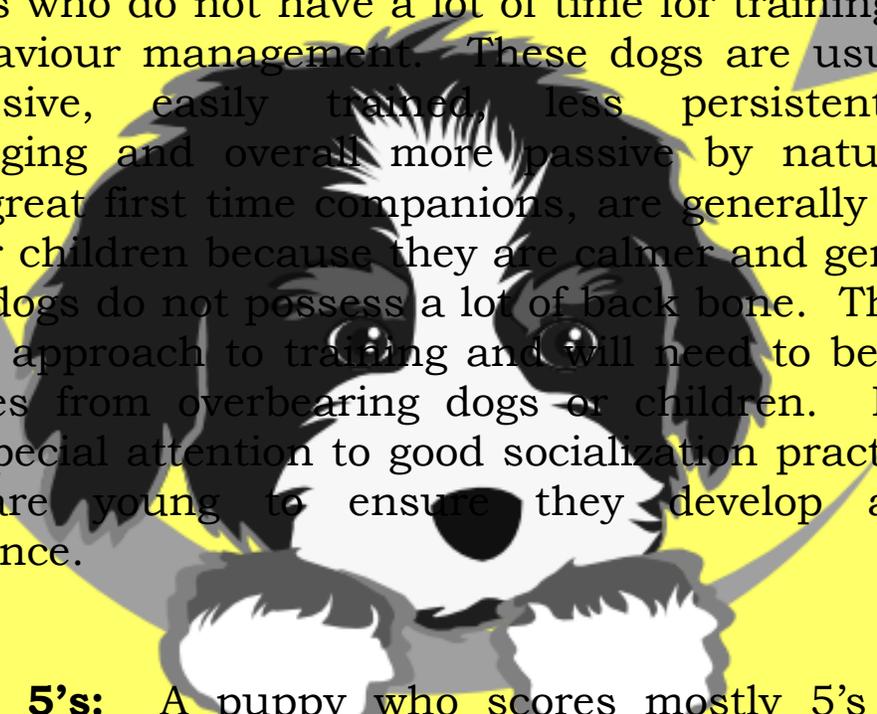
Mostly 1's: A puppy who scores mostly 1's is going to be a dog that is dominant, edgy and very difficult for even the most experienced dog handler. These dogs have a predominantly dominant disposition, are persistent by nature and commonly have a strong drive to react to conflict by becoming aggressive (fight drive). They are generally intense and react without hesitation making them appear somewhat unpredictable to the inexperienced dog owner. These dogs need an investment in training and a program for life-long maintenance. Dogs that score 1's in the Social Dominance, Elevation Dominance and Restraint and Sight Sensitivity tests are likely to develop "issues" if not handled correctly.



Mostly 2's: A puppy who scores mostly 2's will also lean towards dominance and tend to be a more difficult dog for the inexperienced. Dogs that score mostly 2's are usually good candidates for working dogs in protection sports, guard work, military, hunting, or those terrier-types used for vermin extermination. These dogs are persistent and self-confident and can lean towards aggression but have a higher bite inhibition (towards people) than the dog that scores 1's. These dogs are much more successful in a home that is experienced with dominant, pushy dogs and is willing to commit to extensive training.

Mostly 3's: A puppy who scores mostly 3's is usually a confident and lively dog who can be a handful to live with if there is no commitment to early training. Harder to "screw up" than a dog that scores 1's and 2's, the mostly 3's dog

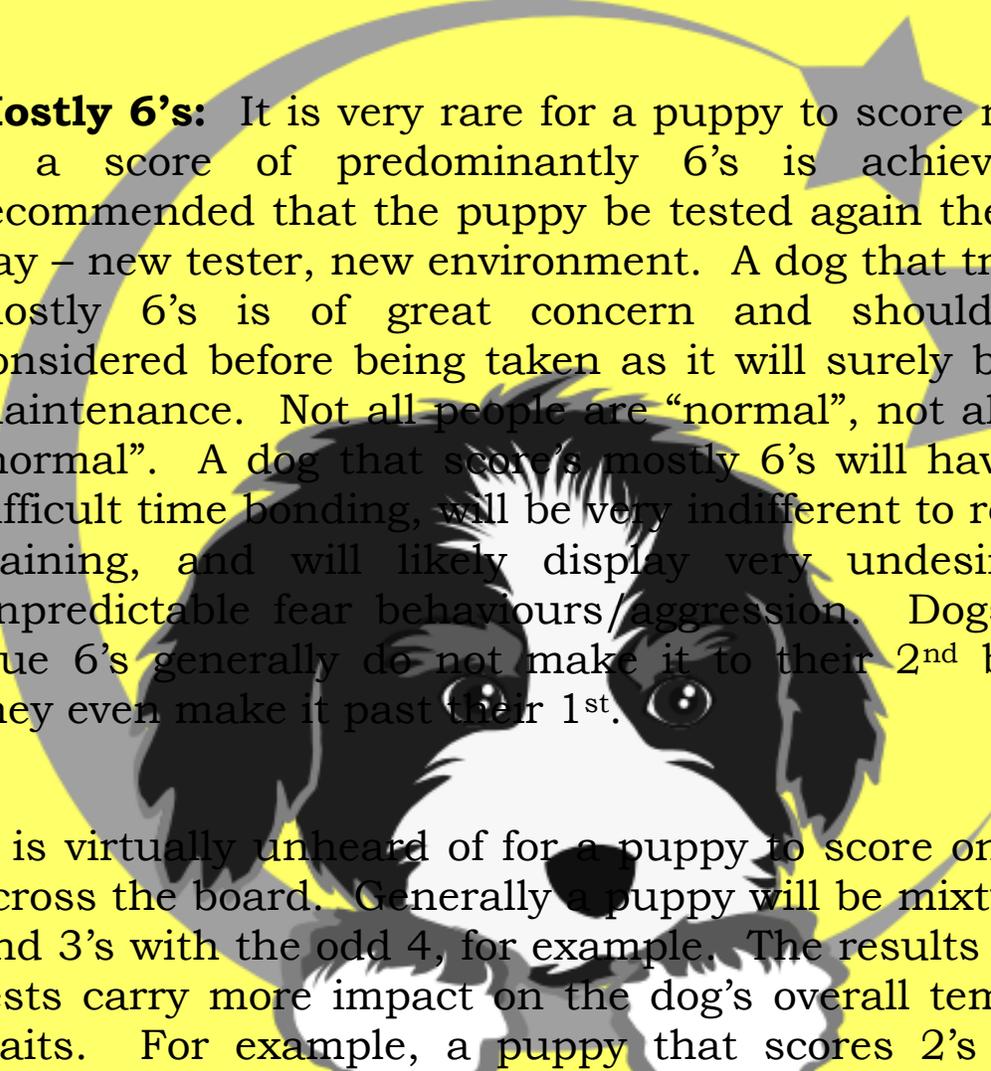
makes a great companion for the active family or individual. They are usually “middle of the road” kind of dogs, not too dominant and not too submissive (referred to as Assertive). Great for second time owners or first time owners who are willing to be pro-active with training; these dogs are fun! They make great obedience and agility dogs, running partners or bush hikers. They can be persistent (i.e. toy obsessed), even annoying, but rarely have aggression issues if socialized properly at a young age.



Mostly 4's: This is the “perfect pet”. Puppies who score mostly 4's are going to be the best choice for individuals or families who do not have a lot of time for training, exercise or behaviour management. These dogs are usually more submissive, easily trained, less persistent and/or challenging and overall more passive by nature. They make great first time companions, are generally good with smaller children because they are calmer and gentler dogs. These dogs do not possess a lot of back bone. They need a gentler approach to training and will need to be protected at times from overbearing dogs or children. Mostly 4's need special attention to good socialization practices when they are young to ensure they develop a healthy confidence.

Mostly 5's: A puppy who scores mostly 5's will need special handling, similar to how a dog with mostly 1's would need, but the reasons are contrary. Fearful and shyer by inherent nature, mostly 5's have a strong aversion to the unknown. They will react negatively to strange sights, sounds, places especially when not socialized extensively prior to 12 weeks of age. These dogs have a

predisposition towards nervy behaviour (see page 23) and when pressured or over stressed will run or bite. Mostly 5's need a special home that will focus on extensive and early socialization, training tailored to confidence building, and an acceptance that the dog is not ever going to be completely "normal".



Mostly 6's: It is very rare for a puppy to score mostly 6's. If a score of predominantly 6's is achieved, it is recommended that the puppy be tested again the following day – new tester, new environment. A dog that truly scores mostly 6's is of great concern and should be very considered before being taken as it will surely be life-long maintenance. Not all people are "normal", not all dogs are "normal". A dog that scores mostly 6's will have a VERY difficult time bonding, will be very indifferent to rewards for training, and will likely display very undesirable and unpredictable fear behaviours/aggression. Dogs that are true 6's generally do not make it to their 2nd birthday if they even make it past their 1st.

It is virtually unheard of for a puppy to score one number across the board. Generally a puppy will be mixtures of 2's and 3's with the odd 4, for example. The results on certain tests carry more impact on the dog's overall temperament traits. For example, a puppy that scores 2's on Social Attraction and Following and 3's on Social Dominance and Restraint, is going to be an easier to manage and train dog than if the numbers were scored in the reverse.

Decide what you value for you and what scores you would like to see a puppy you choose achieve. Do you want an

active pushy puppy or do you want an easy going pet for your family? Choosing a puppy based on his looks or what's left to choose from in the litter could put you in a position of having the wrong dog for you. Mis-matched dogs and owners are the number one reason why dogs are given up. The owner cannot handle the dog, often regardless of training.

If you have already selected your puppy and have him at home with you, you may have been completely unaware of Puppy Aptitude Testing. The vast majority of breeders are unaware of what a PAT is or “pooh-pooh” it, claiming it has no meaning. These breeders are uneducated and/or ignorant. It is a warning that the breeder does not hold their program or practices to a higher standard. Even less dog owners than breeders are aware of PATs. It should be the responsibility of the breeder to educate their buyers. Because there are no regulations on the industry, it has to be consumer beware and up to the consumer to educate themselves.

Performing the Tests Post 49 Days

It doesn't hurt to administer the PAT with a puppy who is older, however, it is extremely important to take into consideration that reactions to the tests could be tainted by “life experience”. For example: When Missy the Chocolate Lab puppy was 10 weeks old, a tarp that was flapping in the wind came loose from the barbecue and landed on her. After that she showed a strong aversion to things moving erratically. This fairly traumatic experience would have an impact on the score for Sight Sensitivity and Stability. However, it certainly does give the average pet owner a

basis for what the need to work on with their puppy in their socialization and training.

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