



TCC PAWS Team

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SKILLS EXERCISES FOR YOUR DOGS

Review Handler's Questionnaire and paperwork

- Issue of familiarity? ___ Facility ___ Evaluator

Accepting Friendly Stranger

- You and the evaluator greet each other and shake hands (fist or elbow bump fine)
- Evaluator looks at but doesn't touch your dog
- Your dog may change position but remains next to you

Accepting Petting (your dog may be standing or sitting)

- The evaluator approaches again and pets your dog on the head and body.
- The evaluator walks around your team and then returns to her starting point
- Your dog willingly accepts petting while next to you.
- Your dog accepts "clumsy" petting

Appearance and Grooming

- Evaluator will check your dog's ears, lift front paws, visually goes over the dog
- Evaluator will briefly brush your dog (your brush or one she has)
- Your dog may move but needs to stay with you

Out for a walk

- The evaluator explains what path to walk along
- Your team will be asked to stop along the way
- You walk your dog on a loose lead with you through a prescribed path

Walking through a crowd

- The evaluator explains what path to walk
- Strangers walk around the area

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- You will navigate through the crowd with your dog walking calmly with you, with attention on you. Your dog may not approach anyone independently of cuing from you

Sit on cue (remain 3 seconds until released)

- You may use verbal and/or hand cues
- Your dog may be in front of or to your side

Down on cue (remain 3 seconds until released)

- You may use verbal and/or hand cues
- Your dog may be in front of or to your side

Stay in Place (either sit or down)

- The evaluator will provide a 10 ft lead and asks you to attach it to your dog's collar
- You put your dog in a sit or down
- You walk 10' away holding the lead, turn and face your dog
- You pause 3 seconds and return to your dog
- Your dog stays in place until released (may change position, but not move from the spot)

Comes when called

- The 10' lead is still attached to your dog. The evaluator will stay with your dog, distracting him while you walk 10' away
- You face your dog and call him to you; dog returns to you when called

Reaction to a neutral dog (both on lead)

- You stand with your dog with the evaluator
- Neutral dog enters the room on leash with his person – across a room, not nearby
- You and your dog will pass within 4' as the neutral dog leaves the room.
- Your dog maintains its position next to you and does not show aggression or excessive fear.

Leave it

- Evaluator will explain what path to walk
- You will walk along the path with your dog calmly with you

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- When passing a toy/treat of interest, you cue your dog to keep his focus
- Your dog will refocus and walk past toy/treat along the path when cued by you

Reaction to distractions

- Evaluators explains the route you will walk with your dog on a loose lead
 - There will be a visual distraction in front of you; your dog may look, stop but not approach or overreact to the distraction and will refocus when cued by you
 - There will be a loud noise from behind you; your dog may stop, look, startle but not approach the noise, and settles quickly afterward staying with you throughout
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SKILLS REQUIRED FOR LARGE GROUP VISITS

Group interaction

- A group of strangers will approach, ask permission to pet your dog
- When you agree, they will crouch down to interact with your dog
- The group will pet your dog together
- One member will hug your dog
- You may interact with your dog, and stop the interaction if you deem it too stressful for your dog

Acceptance of unusual people/equipment

- A person approaches wearing big hat with staggering/limping/odd gait
- The person will stop at least 6' away from you and calls you to approach and asks to pet your dog
- You facilitate the interaction as needed.
- Your dog willingly approaches and accepts petting.

Angry yelling nearby (6' away)

- You stand with your dog while a group yells at each other (not you or your dog)
- Your dog stays calmly with you
- Your dog will approach strangers with you after yelling stops

Offered a treat

- Evaluator will approach and ask if they can give your dog a treat
- It is up to you whether you allow this or not. If not, your dog will not be allowed to take treats during a therapy visit
- If you agree, the evaluator will offer your dog the treat as directed by you (share your preferred way to offer your dog treats)
- Your dog will take the treat gently.