



# 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

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- You will walk along the path with your dog calmly with you
- 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.