



Volhard - Puppy Aptitude Test

Tester	Litter	Date
Marlene	Ginger & Caesar's Litter	4-4-24

About the Test

Getting a dog or puppy on impulse is rarely a good idea. Remember that dogs were designed for a particular function. The Volhard test is designed to help guide you in deciding what puppy to get. You can learn more about the details of this test at volhard.com

The Tests Consist of the Following:

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.



Test Results - Mango Tango

Test	Response	Score
Social Attraction	Followed readily, tail up	3
Following	Followed readily, tail up	3
Restraint	Struggled, then settled	4
Social Dominance	Squirmed, licked at hands	4
Elevation Dominance	No struggle, relaxed	4
Retrieving	Chased object and returned without it to tester	4
Touch Sensitivity	3-5 count before response	4
Sound Sensitivity	Listened, located sound and showed curiosity	3
Sight Sensitivity	Looked with curiosity and attempted to investigate, tail up	3
Stability	Looked and went to investigate	3



Test Results - Shamrock

Test	Response	Score
Social Attraction	Followed readily, tail up	3
Following	Followed readily, tail up	3
Restraint	Struggled, then settled	4
Social Dominance	Squirmed, licked at hands	4
Elevation Dominance	No struggle, relaxed	4
Retrieving	Chased object and returned without it to tester	4
Touch Sensitivity	3-5 count before response	4
Sound Sensitivity	Listened, located sound and showed curiosity	3
Sight Sensitivity	Looked with curiosity, tail down	4
Stability	Sat and looked, but did not move toward the umbrella	4



Test Results - Cerulean

Test	Response	Score
Social Attraction	Followed readily, tail up	3
Following	Followed readily, tail up	3
Restraint	Struggled, then settled	4
Social Dominance	Squirmed, licked at hands	4
Elevation Dominance	No struggle, relaxed	4
Retrieving	Chased object and returned without it to tester	4
Touch Sensitivity	3-5 count before response	4
Sound Sensitivity	Listened, located sound and showed curiosity	3
Sight Sensitivity	Looked with curiosity and attempted to investigate, tail up	3
Stability	Looked and went to investigate	3



Test Results - Dandelion

Test	Response	Score
Social Attraction	Followed readily, tail up	3
Following	Followed readily, tail up	3
Restraint	Struggled, then settled	4
Social Dominance	Squirmed, licked at hands	4
Elevation Dominance	No struggle, relaxed	4
Retrieving	Chased object and returned without it to tester	4
Touch Sensitivity	3-5 count before response	4
Sound Sensitivity	Listened, located sound and showed curiosity	3
Sight Sensitivity	Looked with curiosity and attempted to investigate, tail up	3
Stability	Sat and looked, but did not move toward the umbrella	4



Test Results - Magenta

Test	Response	Score
Social Attraction	Followed readily, tail up	3
Following	Followed readily, tail up	3
Restraint	Struggled, then settled	4
Social Dominance	Squirmed, licked at hands	4
Elevation Dominance	No struggle, relaxed	4
Retrieving	Chased object and returned without it to tester	4
Touch Sensitivity	3-5 count before response	4
Sound Sensitivity	Listened, located sound and showed curiosity	3
Sight Sensitivity	Looked with curiosity and attempted to investigate, tail up	3
Stability	Looked and went to investigate	3

Test Highlights

Puppies are scored on a scale of 1-6. Lower numbers are not “bad.” They are simply numbers that are associated with characteristics. The scores are interpreted as follows:

Mostly 1’s

Strong desire to be pack leader and is not shy about bucking for a promotion.
Has a predisposition to be aggressive to people and other dogs and will bite.
Should only be placed into a very experienced home where the dog will be trained and worked on a regular basis.

Mostly 2’s

Also has leadership aspirations.
May be hard to manage and has the capacity to bite
Has lots of self-confidence
Should not be placed into an inexperienced home
Too unruly to be good with children and elderly people, or other animals
Needs strict schedule, loads of exercise and lots of training
Has the potential to be a great show dog with someone who understands dog behavior

Mostly 3’s

Can be a high-energy dog and may need lots of exercise
Good with people and other animals
Can be a bit of a handful to live with
Needs training, does very well at it and learns quickly
Great dog for second time owner.

Mostly 4’s

The kind of dog that makes the perfect pet
Best choice for the first time owner.
Rarely will buck for a promotion in the family
Easy to train, and rather quiet.

Good with elderly people, children, although may need protection from the children

Choose this pup, take it to obedience classes, and you'll be the star, without having to do too much work!

Tidbits: The puppy with mostly 3's and 4's can be quite a handful, but should be good with children and does well with training. Energy needs to be dispersed with plenty of exercise.

Mostly 5's

Fearful, shy and needs special handling

Will run away at the slightest stress in its life

Strange people, strange places, different floor or ground surfaces may upset it

Often afraid of loud noises and terrified of thunder storms.

When you greet it upon your return, may submissively urinate.

Needs a very special home where the environment doesn't change too much and where there are no children

Best for a quiet, elderly couple

If cornered and cannot get away, has a tendency to bite

Mostly 6's

So independent that he doesn't need you or other people

Doesn't care if he is trained or not - he is his own person Unlikely to bond to you, since he doesn't need you.

A great guard dog for gas stations!

Do not take this puppy and think you can change him into a lovable bundle - you can't, so leave well enough alone

Top Dog Tips: Avoid the puppy with several 6's. It is so independent it doesn't need you or anyone. He is his own person and unlikely to bond to you.

[Read More about the test results](#)