



Preparing For a Pet Partners Evaluation For a Very Small Dog or Other Animal That Will Be Carried

Before the Evaluation:

- ❖ You should be dressed in clean, comfortable clothes (including comfortable shoes) that are appropriate for visiting.
- ❖ Your pet should be groomed as if you were going on a visit.
- ❖ You should be using an acceptable collar and leash (see the FAQ's for a list of what is acceptable).
- ❖ You and your pet must be healthy on the day of the test. Your animal shouldn't have any open sores, wounds or stitches; be ill, injured, or otherwise in pain; be on antibiotics or antifungal medication.
- ❖ You will be expected to have provided proof of vaccinations, including rabies and bordetella.
- ❖ You will be expected to bring a brush or comb, a towel or blanket (if your pet will be carried), and a treat if your pet has special dietary needs.

At the Evaluation:

- ❖ This test simulates a visit. You should role play with the testers as if they were clients at a facility.
- ❖ We want you to talk to and encourage your pet throughout the test.
- ❖ Instructions will be given before each exercise. Feel free to ask questions if you don't understand what's expected.
- ❖ These exercises do not require an obedience background. However, we do need to see that you are in control of your animal.
- ❖ Cats can be carried throughout the evaluation or walked on a leash at the handler's discretion.
- ❖ Very small dogs can be carried for most, but not all of the evaluation.
- ❖ How you present your cat or very small dog (i.e. carried, in a basket, etc.) during the evaluation is how you must present your animal when visiting.
- ❖ During the test, you will briefly encounter a "neutral" dog. Be assured that this dog has been thoroughly screened to be people & animal friendly.
- ❖ If you feel your animal is extremely stressed or fearful, please act as you animals advocate and have us stop the test.
- ❖ The test will be stopped if we see signs of aggression or extreme fear in your pet.
- ❖ The test will be stopped if we see inappropriate conduct on the part of the handler.
- ❖ Try to relax – your pet can tell if you're nervous!

The PPST (Pet Partners Skills Test):

Exercise #1 – Introduction

1. Greet the evaluator and give her your Handler Questionnaire.
2. While she reviews the questionnaire, walk around the room to familiarize yourself and your animal with the testing area.

Exercise #2 – Accepting a Friendly Stranger

1. The evaluator will walk up to you and greet you.
2. As you shake hands and talk briefly, it must remain quietly in your arms or basket.
3. Your animal should not approach or shy away from the evaluator.

Exercise #3 – Accepting Petting

1. The evaluator will briefly pet your animal's head and body.
2. Your animal should welcome being touched as it continues to remain quietly in your arms or basket.
3. The evaluator will circle around you to complete the exercise.

Exercise #4 – Appearance and Grooming

1. The evaluator will inspect your animal to make sure it is properly cleaned and groomed.
2. You have your choice of having the inspection done on a table or on a towel or blanket in the evaluator or an assistant's lap.
3. The evaluator will lightly comb or brush your animal.
4. The evaluator will lightly examine your animals' ears and pick up each front foot.

Exercise #5 – Out For a Walk

1. All dogs, including very small dogs, must walk on the floor. Cats may be held.
2. You will be asked to walk forward and make a left turn, a right turn, and to turn around.
3. You will be asked to stop once while walking and again at the end.
4. Your dog does not have to sit when you stop.
5. If you are holding your animal, it must remain quietly in your arms or basket.

Exercise #6 – Walking Through a Crowd

1. You will be asked to walk across the room while some people cross your path, both in front of you and behind you. Then stop and turn around.
2. Small dogs may be carried for this exercise.
3. If you are holding your animal, it must remain quietly in your arms or basket.

Exercise #7 – Reaction to Distraction

1. You will be told to walk back across the room. As you do, you will encounter a visual distraction in front of you. This will probably be some medical equipment like a wheelchair, IV pole, or walker.
2. You will also encounter an auditory distraction behind you, such as a book being dropped on the floor.

Exercises #8 and 9 – Alternate Sit and Down for Held Animals

1. There will be three people sitting side by side. You will be asked to hand the first person your towel or blanket to put on their lap, and then pass your animal to her.
2. After a few seconds, she will pass your animal back to you and pass the towel or blanket to the next person.
3. You will be asked to repeat passing your animal to the next two people.

Exercise #10 – Alternate Stay on Command For Held Animals

1. You will have your choice of placing your animal on a table or on a tester's lap.
2. You can verbally reassure your animal, but not pet him.
3. The assistant will pet him for 30 seconds.
4. Your animal does not need to stay in one position, but does need to stay on the table or lap.

Exercise #11 – Come When Called (Dogs Only)

1. All dogs, even very small dogs do this exercise.
2. You will be asked to replace your leash with a 10 foot line.
3. Tell your dog to stay and walk out to the end of the line.
4. The evaluator will pleasantly distract your dog for a moment and then ask you to call him to you.
5. When he returns, you should then reattach your own leash.

Exercise #12 – Reaction to a Neutral Dog

1. You will be asked to walk across the room while an unknown person and dog approach you.
2. You can carry your animal on either side.
3. When you meet, you should stop, shake hands, say hello and move on.
4. Your animal should show only casual interest in the dog and handler, and must remain quietly in your arms or basket.

Exercise A – Overall Exam

1. Your animal should allow his entire body to be examined. This includes the ears, tail, mouth, feet and any unusual physical features.
2. You have your choice of having the exam done on a table or on the evaluators or an assistant's lap.

Exercise B – Clumsy Petting

1. Your animal should not become upset when the evaluator pets him more exuberantly and clumsily.
2. Your animal should not become upset when the evaluator uses different vocal tones.

Exercise C – Restraining Hug

1. Your animal should allow the evaluator to give him a full body hug.

Exercise D – Staggering, Gesturing Individual

1. An assistant wearing an open robe and using medical equipment will approach you while staggering and waving her hands around and moaning as if in pain.
2. She will stop 6 feet from you, resume a natural posture and tone of voice, can call your animal to her.
3. Remember to role play and interact with the assistant as if she were a client in a facility.

Exercise E – Angry Yelling

1. While you're interacting with the assistant in Exercise D, two more assistants will come out and start yelling at each other.
2. When they stop yelling, they will resume a natural posture and tone of voice, and one of them will call your animal to her.

Exercise F – Bumped From Behind

1. While you're interacting with the assistants from Exercise E, someone will come up from behind and lightly bump into you.

Exercise G – Crowded and Petted by Several People

1. One at a time, 3 people will approach your animal and begin to pet him.
2. One person will be using medical equipment.
3. All 3 people will be petting your animal at once.

Exercise H – Leave It

1. The evaluator will ask you to walk across the room, passing a toy on the floor.
2. Very small dogs must also walk on the floor.

Exercise I – Offered Treat

1. The evaluator will pick up a treat and ask if she can offer it to your animal.
2. Your animal should take the treat nicely or you can ask that it not be offered.