

# Volhard Puppy Aptitude Test

*Wildwood's* \_\_\_\_ *Litter*

*Puppy's ID:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Age at testing:* \_\_\_\_\_

The testing is done in a location unfamiliar to the puppies 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!

## **Testing:**

### 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.

1	Came readily, tail up, jumped, bit at hands
2	Came readily, tail up, pawed, licked at hands
3	Came readily, tail up
4	Came readily, tail down
5	Came hesitantly, tail down
6	Didn't come at all

## 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.

	1	Followed readily, tail up, got underfoot, bit at feet
	2	Came re Followed readily, tail up, got underfoot
	3	Followed readily, tail up
	4	Followed readily, tail down
	5	Followed hesitantly, tail down
	6	Did not follow or went away

## 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.

	1	Struggled fiercely, flailed, bit
	2	Struggled fiercely, flailed
	3	Settled, struggled, settled with some eye contact
	4	Struggled, then settled
	5	No struggle
	6	No struggle, strained to avoid eye contact

## 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.

	1	Jumped, pawed, bit, growled
	2	Jumped, pawed
	3	Cuddled up to tester and tried to lick face
	4	Squirmed, licked at hands
	5	Rolled over, licked at hands
	6	Went away and stayed away

## 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.

	1	Struggled fiercely, tried to bite
	2	Struggled fiercely
	3	Struggled, settled, struggled, settled
	4	No struggle, relaxed
	5	No struggle, body stiff
	6	No struggle, froze

## 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.

	1	Chased object, picked it up and ran away
	2	Chased object, stood over it and did not return
	3	Chased object, picked it up and returned with it to tester
	4	Chased object and returned without it to tester
	5	Started to chase object, lost interest
	6	Does not chase object

## TOUCH SENSITIVITY

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

	1	8-10 count before response
	2	6-8 count before response
	3	5-6 count before response
	4	3-5 count before response
	5	2-3 count before response
	6	1-2 count before response

## SOUND SENSITIVITY

The puppy is placed in the center 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.

	1	Listened, located sound and ran toward it barking
	2	Listened, located sound and walked slowly toward it
	3	Listened, located sound and showed curiosity
	4	Listened and located sound
	5	Cringed, backed off and hid behind tester
	6	Ignored sound and showed no curiosity

## SIGHT SENSITIVITY

The puppy is placed in the center 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.

	1	Looked, attacked and bit object
	2	Looked and put feet on object and put mouth on it
	3	Looked with curiosity and attempted to investigate, tail up
	4	Looked with curiosity, tail down
	5	Ran away or hid behind tester
	6	Hid behind tester

## STABILITY

An umbrella is opened about five feet from the puppy and gently placed on the ground.

	1	Looked and ran to the umbrella, mouthing or biting it
	2	Looked and walked to the umbrella, smelling it cautiously
	3	Looked and went to investigate
	4	Sat and looked, but did not move toward the umbrella
	5	Showed little or no interest
	6	Ran away from the umbrella

## OVERALL EVALUATION