

Temperament Test

Why do we test temperament?

The temperament test is simply an opportunity to assess how your dog reacts in different situations. The purpose of the test is to identify your dogs level of social development to ensure their safety, the safety of our other dogs and that of us and our staff.

Lots of factors will influence your dogs level of social development, unfortunately not all dogs will be compatible in this kind of social setting. This does not mean that your dog is a 'bad dog'. It simply means they are not suited to this kind of environment. Given the correct training, some dogs can in future develop the necessary social skills required.

We are unable to accept any dogs into this environment that may be aggressive, anti social, or those that could present a risk to our staff or other dogs in our care. We are also unable to accept any dogs that are overly fearful. Daycare is designed to be fun and stimulating for your dog. It serves no benefit to them if they are frightened or fearful. This can also lead to potential negative behaviours either whilst in our care or at home.

The Test

The temperament test is free and we require your dog for approx. 30-45 mins. We ask that owners are not present during the test. There is nothing to hide, dogs are easily distracted by their owners and this gives us the opportunity to get to know each other. We anticipate you will be leaving your dog with us in the future so we might as well start now!

We will take your dog into one of our quiet areas without any other dogs. On lead, we give your dog the opportunity to have a sniff around and become acquainted with the handler. Your dog will then be slowly introduced to various staff members who will be responsible for their care. All the time we will be assessing for any fearful or aggressive behaviour. If your dog is comfortable with this scenario, we are then ready to introduce another dog to the room.

The 'other' dog will be one of our own that we know is socially comfortable with other dogs. We do not use other customers dogs for the test. With both dogs under control on leads, they are allowed to meet. We assess for any aggressive body language or negative behaviour. If both dogs are interacting positively, we will then introduce a toy and after that a treat. This is to check for any possessive / aggressive tendencies.

The Test Continued

We will repeat the process again, bringing in another of our own dogs. If all is successful, we will give your dog some time to become accustomed to their new small pack. Your dog should hopefully now be ready to meet the main pack.

We will accompany your dog into the main hall whilst still on a lead. We try not to make any fuss and keep everything low key. There will be a lot of interest in the new arrival but as pack leaders, we will keep control of the group to ensure the new dog is not overwhelmed. The pack looks to us to confirm the new arrival is welcome and accepted into the group. After the excitement has died down, normal activities will resume and your dog is allowed off lead to explore. We will closely observe your dog to ensure they integrate successfully into the pack.

Congratulations, we have a new member to the Capel Canines family! We will keep a close eye on your dog during their first few visits to ensure they are adjusting to their new environment positively. They will soon find their place in the pack and make new friends with both the staff and the other dogs.

Concerns during the Test

If at any stage your dog is not happy or displays any negative behaviour, we will stop the test and keep your dog comfortable until your return. Unfortunately there will be some dogs that we are unable to accept into Daycare. We will be open and honest with our assessment. We may be able to suggest alternatives or training if we feel your dog is not ready for the Daycare environment. We obviously want to keep your business, but we hope you appreciate our overriding obligation is to the health and wellbeing of every staff member and dog in our care.