

Playgroup Behavior Test Results

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S - Social Behavior

Dogs who demonstrate social behavior in playgroup are likely demonstrating healthy, self-regulated, reciprocated play. They often engage with other dogs in an affiliative manner and do not contribute to any altercations.

Characteristics may include play bows, body pops, approaching and retreating, running, wagging, relaxed mouth, or a soft C-shape.



E - Environmentally Focused Behavior

Dogs who demonstrate environmentally focused behavior in playgroup are likely walking around the playgroup area, quietly sniffing. They may engage with other dogs briefly, but often spend most of their playgroups remaining neutral to one another.

Characteristics may include neutral positions, head down, sniffing, moderate tail carriage, or walking.

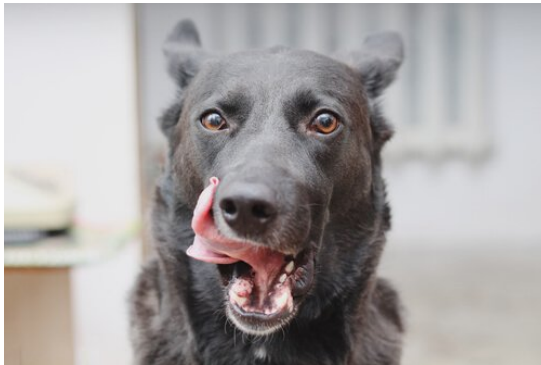
T - Timid/Fearful Behavior

Dogs who demonstrate timid or fearful behavior in playgroup are likely avoiding others, retreating from play, or tolerating others with stiff body language. A dog may demonstrate timidity during initial greetings only, then progress to a more social style of play. They may also maintain



their timidity and benefit from other gentle playmates or social helper dogs.

Characteristics may include stiffness, lip licking, wide eyes, tight lip, head turning away, retreating, whining, snapping, or growling.



X - Anxious Behavior

Dogs who demonstrate anxious behavior in playgroup are likely to be avoiding others, whining, panting and pacing. They may engage with other dogs briefly, but the interaction is greatly affected by their stress. Their stress may or may not be related to the playgroup itself.

Characteristics may include panting, pacing, whining, retreating, growling, or snapping.

H - Hyperarousal Behavior

Dogs who demonstrate hyperarousal behavior in playgroup are likely to be engaging with others in an active, forward manner. They are often body checking, posturing, mouthing, mounting, or chasing others in addition to other social behavior play styles.



Characteristics may include piloerection, pupil dilation, posturing, bowing, wagging, running, mouthing, body checking, deep vocalizing, or mounting.

R - Reactive Behavior

Dogs who demonstrate reactive behavior in playgroup are likely to be vocalizing (barking and/or growling) prior to a close-greeting with another dog. This result does *not* indicate that the dog is unable to participate in playgroups. Often, reactive dogs will benefit from playgroup interactions off-leash. They will likely demonstrate reactive behavior immediately



prior to close-greetings, then transition into a different play style, such as hyperarousal, social, or environmentally focused.

Characteristics may include vocalizing, piloerection, stiffness, or forward body position.

A - Aggressive Behavior

Dogs who demonstrate aggressive behavior are likely attempting to bite during close-contact greetings. This result indicates that the dog was unable to participate in off-leash play and remained on leash or muzzled.

Characteristics may include piloerection, blowing through lips, lip pursing, stiffness, forward body position, growling, snarling, snapping, or attempts to bite.

