



## 14. THE PETS AS THERAPY TEMPERAMENT ASSESSMENT TEST

### WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE TEMPERAMENT TEST FOR YOUR DOG

#### **Dogs need to be able to.....**

- ❖ **Walk on a relaxed lead, without excessive pulling and without the use of head collars, harnesses or check chains**

#### **Why?**

PAT dogs need to be under the owner's control at all times, without relying on the use of training or behaviour correction aids

- ❖ **Accept being stroked and handled and having their paws, tail and ears checked by the assessor**

#### **Why?**

PAT dogs have to accept being patted, often vigorously, by patients or clients. They need to not be overly worried about having their paws, ears, or tail handled by a stranger

- ❖ **Take a food treat gently without snatching from the assessor**

#### **Why?**

Patients and clients love to be able to give their PAT dog a food treat. It is important that they do not snatch it because some patients, such as older people have very fragile skin

- ❖ **Respond appropriately to a sudden noise or disturbance in the room whilst being tested**

#### **Why?**

PAT dogs have to encounter lots of new and unexpected stimuli - they should not be overly fearful of this and recover quickly

#### **Owners need to be able to.....**

- ❖ **Demonstrate control of their dog on the lead whilst holding a conversation with the assessor**

#### **Why?**

Much of the volunteer's time is spent talking to different people and PAT dogs need to be able to wait patiently under the owner's control at all times

- ❖ **Groom their dog's back, chest, stomach and tail**

#### **Why?**

If a dog readily accepts grooming by its owner, it demonstrates that the owner has control over their dog's behaviour and the dog is willing to accept their authority

- ❖ **Demonstrate that they can restrict their dog by holding its collar or holding him/her firmly**

#### **Why?**

PAT dogs need to be able to accept restraint from their owners in case of an emergency in the establishment or if the owner needs to withdraw their dog quickly from a patient or client

- ❖ **Present their dog in a fit, clean and healthy condition**

#### **Why?**

Fit, healthy dogs behave appropriately as PAT dogs under demanding social and physical situations. A well groomed and clean dog is a sign of a responsible pet owner.

**Contact us on: 01844 345445 or visit our website at: [www.petsastherapy.org](http://www.petsastherapy.org)**