

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF TEST EXERCISES

The Chenny Troupe Certification Test is a PASS/FAIL test. This means that your dog must successfully complete EACH test exercise in order to become a Chenny Troupe certified therapy dog.

As used below, you are the Handler, your dog is the Test Dog, Assistants are Chenny Troupe volunteers present at the practice and test sessions to help the Evaluator, and the Evaluator is the person who ultimately makes the decision on each Test Dog. Please bring this form to the practice session.

1. TOLERANCE TO HANDLING BY A STRANGER	
	<p>Purpose. Demonstrates that the Test Dog will welcome being groomed and examined and will permit a stranger, such as a Chenny Troupe Client, another volunteer or someone other than the Handler to do so.</p> <p>Description of Exercise. While the Evaluator observes, an Assistant softly brushes or combs the Test Dog in a forward and backward direction, using a soft brush provided by Chenny Troupe (not the Handler). The Assistant lightly examines the Test Dog's ears and gently picks up each front foot.</p> <p>Performance by Test Dog. It is not necessary for the Test Dog to hold a specific position during the grooming, but the Test Dog must show no sign of shyness or resentment, and must accept the handling by the Assistant.</p> <p>Notes:</p>
2. ACCEPTING A STRANGER	
	<p>Purpose. Demonstrates that the Test Dog will allow a Chenny Troupe Client to approach it and the Handler, and speak to the Handler in a natural, everyday situation.</p> <p>Description of Exercise. After the Handler puts the Test Dog in a sit-stay or a down-stay, the Evaluator approaches the Test Dog and Handler, and shakes the Handler's hand, exchanging pleasantries, ignoring the Test Dog.</p> <p>Performance by Test Dog. The Test Dog must show no sign of resentment or shyness, and <u>must not break position</u> or try to go to Evaluator.</p> <p>Notes:</p>

3. WALK ON LOOSE LEAD

Purpose. Demonstrates that the Handler is in verbal control of the Test Dog, and that a Chenny Troupe Client, who may be using crutches or a walker, will be able to walk with the Test Dog without the Test Dog's tugging on the leash.

Description of Exercise. At the Evaluator's command, the Handler begins to walk with the Test Dog on leash next to him or her, along a pre-plotted course (usually marked with traffic cones). The Handler will change speeds, make turns and halt, as directed by the Evaluator. The exercise will require two changes of pace, one right turn, one left turn, one about-face and three halts.

Performance by Test Dog. For this exercise, the Test Dog may be on either the right or left side of the Handler, but must remain on that side throughout the exercise. At all times during the exercise the leash must be loose, not taut. The Test Dog must be within at least half of the dog's body length of the Handler at all times. When the Handler halts, the Test Dog must sit at the Handler's side. The Test Dog's position should leave no doubt that the Test Dog is attentive to the Handler and is responding to the Handler's movements, voice and changes of direction and pace. If the Test Dog pulls on the leash, it is an automatic failure.

Notes:

4. WALK THROUGH A CROWD

Purpose. Demonstrates that the Test Dog can move about politely and comfortably in simulated hospital traffic and equipment.

Description of Exercise. Assistants will assemble a chair and hospital equipment, such as walkers, a wheelchair and crutches, and will congregate and move about, using the equipment, talking to each other and greeting the Test Dog by name in an animated but friendly manner. The Test Dog and Handler will walk around and pass close to the Assistants, one of whom will pet the Test Dog, possibly with a closed fist, and another of whom will tug on its tail. One of the Assistants will give the Test Dog a command, imitating the basic verbal commands given by Clients in a therapy session in order to evaluate its behavior. (If the Test Dog does not obey the command, this is not a failure.) The Handler and Test Dog will proceed through the crowd, and may be asked to pass through the crowd a second time.

Performance by Test Dog. The Test Dog may show friendly interest in the Assistants, but should continue to walk with the Handler. The Test Dog must not show shyness, resentment or over-exuberance. If the Test Dog strains at the leash or **jumps up** onto an Assistant, it constitutes an automatic failure.

Notes:

5. SIT ON COMMAND; DOWN ON COMMAND

Purpose. Demonstrates that the Test Dog has training and will respond to the Handler's command. This exercise demonstrates that the Test Dog will take verbal command from a Chenny Troupe Client.

Description of Exercise. At the Evaluator's request, the Handler will give a verbal command for the Test Dog to sit. The command may be repeated. After the Test Dog is in a sitting position, at the Evaluator's request, the Handler will give a verbal command for the Test Dog to down.

Performance by Test Dog. The Test Dog may take a reasonable amount of time to sit and to down, but must ultimately assume each position and remain in that position until released. The Handler may not touch the Test Dog or force the Test Dog into position. It must be evident to the Evaluator that the Test Dog has responded to the Handler's voice command.

Notes:

6. SIT/STAY FOR EXAM

Purpose. Demonstrates that the Test Dog will allow the approach of a Chenny Troupe Client, health care worker or another Chenny Troupe volunteer to approach and pet it.

Description of Exercise. After the Handler has put the Test Dog in a sit/stay at the owner's side, the Evaluator will approach the Test Dog and pet it on the head and body.

Performance by Test Dog. The Test Dog must not show shyness or resentment or break position. Breaking position is an automatic fail.

Notes:

7. SHORT STAY-IN-POSITION/RECALL SEQUENCE

Purpose. Demonstrates that the Test Dog will assume and remain in the position commanded by the Handler, and that, when commanded to come, the Test Dog will come directly to the Handler. These are commands frequently used by Chenny Troupe Clients in therapy sessions.

Description of Exercise. At the Evaluator's request, the Handler gives a verbal command to the Test Dog to sit or lie down. When the Test Dog has assumed the required position, the Handler may command the Test Dog to stay. At the Evaluator's request, the Handler will walk away from the Test Dog, with his or her back to the Test Dog, as distance of 20 feet,

	<p>and then turn and face the Test Dog. At the Evaluator's request, the Handler will call the Test Dog, using the "come" command.</p> <p>Performance by Test Dog. The Test Dog must assume the initial sit or down position commanded by the Handler, and remain in that position in the place where it was left (minor comfort shifts are acceptable). If the Test Dog moves from its location or changes body position (e.g., from a sit to a down or vice versa or to a standing position) it is an automatic fail. When the Handler calls the Test Dog to him or her, the Test Dog must come directly to the Handler and stand or sit in front of the Handler within one arm's length.</p> <p>Notes:</p>
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8. REACTION TO A STRANGE DOG (MEET AND GREET)

	<p>Purpose. Demonstrates that the Test Dog can behave politely around other dogs at the Chenny Troupe programs.</p> <p>Description of Exercise. An Assistant, with the Meet-and-Greet Dog on leash and in a sit-stay, are positioned twenty feet from the Handler and the Test Dog. At the Evaluator's request, the Handler and the Test Dog approach the assistant, stopping within social distance for shaking hands (in front of the Assistant about one and a half arm's lengths) and the Handler puts the Test Dog on a sit/stay. The Handler and the Assistant will shake hands and exchange pleasantries. At the Evaluator's request, the Handler will resume walking in a path that requires the Test Dog to pass directly next to the Meet-and-Greet Dog at a distance of no more than five feet.</p> <p>Performance by Test Dog. The Test Dog should show no more than casual interest in the Meet-and-Greet Dog, may not pull on its leash, and may not go to the Assistant or the Meet-and-Greet Dog.</p> <p>Notes:</p>
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9. REACTION TO DISTRACTIONS

Purpose. Demonstrates that the Test Dog is confident at all times when faced with distracting conditions and noises that might occur in a hospital setting.

Description of Exercise. As the Handler walks the Test Dog in a direction indicated by the Evaluator, an Assistant, positioned ten feet behind the Handler and Test Dog, will drop a metal pan, crutch or can, or other loud wood or metallic object.

Performance by Test Dog. The Test Dog may express natural interest and curiosity, may startle but should not panic, try to run away, show aggressiveness or bark.

Notes:

10. EXHIBITING PATIENCE (WITH TOY DISTRACTION)

Purpose. Demonstrates that the Test Dog is able to wait patiently for direction from sitting and standing Clients under distracting circumstances. Many Chenny Troupe Clients take longer to mentally sequence tasks or concentrate on movements or speech than the normal reaction/response time. The Test Dog must be able to tolerate the wait, and show steady expectancy.

Description of Exercise. The Handler and the Test Dog will approach two Assistants, one is standing and one is sitting in a wheelchair. The seated Assistant will hold a squeak toy in his/her hand, visible to the Test Dog. The Assistant will squeak the toy twice and then hand the toy to the Handler, who does not squeak the toy. After a few seconds, the Handler will hand the toy to the standing Assistant. The standing Assistant will hold the toy in his/her hand for a few seconds in front of the Test Dog, squeaking the toy twice. The Evaluator will announce exercise finished.

Performance by Test Dog. The Test Dog may express natural interest and curiosity at seeing the squeaky toy being handed back and forth and at the toy in the Assistants' hand. The Test Dog may not jump at the toy during any part of the exercise, and may not attempt to grab the toy from the Assistant's hand, to paw at the Assistant's hand or bark at the Assistant. Jumping at the toy or attempting to grab the toy from the Assistant's hand will be a failure. The Handler may put the Test Dog on a sit or down/stay command for the exercise.

Notes:

11. GENTLY TAKING TREAT FROM THE HAND

Purpose. Demonstrates that the Test Dog is able to accept a treat from the Client in a friendly, gentle, patient and non-threatening manner.

Description of Exercise. The Handler will approach two Assistants, one sitting in a wheelchair and one standing on crutches. The Handler and Test Dog will approach one of the Assistants. The Assistant will shakily lower his/her **closed** hand with a treat in it down until it is within the Test Dog's reach. The Assistant will not deliver the treat right away. When the Evaluator directs, the Assistant will slowly open his/her hand, offering the treat to the Test Dog. After the Handler and Test Dog have finished with the first Assistant, the Handler and Test Dog will approach the other Assistant and the process will be repeated.

Performance by Test Dog. The Test Dog must gently take the treat from the Assistant's cupped hand. The Test Dog may express natural interest and curiosity, and may bump or gently nuzzle or lick the Assistant's hand, but only slightly, with its nose. The Test Dog must not take the treat roughly or bark at the Assistant. Test Dog will pass if it takes a treat from either one of the two Assistants in the gentle manner described

Notes:

12. LONG GROUP SIT STAY

Purpose. Demonstrates that the Test Dog, when commanded, will remain sitting for a long period of time, even when distractions are present. In the therapeutic setting, this is important when the Chenny Troupe volunteer is working with the Client, not the Test Dog. It is also important in case of medical emergency at the facility, when the Test Dog must be trusted to be left where commanded.

Description of Exercise. This is a group exercise, with all Test Dogs. The Evaluator will assemble the teams in a line with the Test Dogs at the Handler's sides. When requested by the Evaluator, all Handlers will, at the same time, command their Test Dogs to sit, and then to stay. When requested by the Evaluator, the Handlers will, at the same time, walk away from their Test Dogs with their backs to them, a distance of twenty feet, and then turn and face their Test Dogs. The Handlers may reinforce their initial command with hand signals, but, to prevent distraction to the other Test Dogs, no Handler may use loud or continuous coaching, but only isolated, quiet verbal coaching. If a Test Dog gets up and starts to wander or follow its Handler, or if a Test Dog moves to interfere with another Test Dog, the Evaluator will promptly instruct the Handler to keep the Test Dog in front of him and/or keep it from the other Test Dog(s). After 60 seconds have passed on the Evaluator's watch, the Evaluator will notify the Handlers and quietly request them to return to their Test Dogs. The Handlers will walk back to their Test Dogs without speaking to them, walk behind them, and assume their normal position with each Handler's Test Dog sitting to his or her left. When the Evaluator says "Exercise finished," the Handlers may release and praise their dogs.

Performance by Test Dog. The Test Dog must sit promptly upon the Handler's command, and not break position throughout the exercise. To do so is an automatic

failure. Except in extraordinary cases, a Test Dog will not be excused from breaking position if distracted or approached by another Test Dog or if distracted by sounds or events outside the test site.

Notes:

13. LONG GROUP DOWN STAY

Description of Exercise. This exercise is identical to the Long Group Sit stay with the following exceptions: The Handlers will, at the same time, command their Test Dogs to assume a down position. The Handlers must stand facing their Test Dogs for three minutes.

Notes:

14. DOG LEFT ALONE

Purpose. Demonstrates that the Test Dog behaves well when left alone for three minutes without the Handler present, for example, in the case of a medical emergency.

Description of Exercise. When requested by the Evaluator, the Handlers will all tether their Test Dogs to structures in the site suitable to each Test Dog's size. When requested, all Handlers will leave the room together, out of the Test Dog's sight and hearing. At the Evaluator's request, the Handlers will re-enter the room and go to their Test Dogs and release them.

Performance by Test Dog. The Test Dog is not required to remain in position, but must not tug at the leash or bark, whine, howl or pace. The Test Dog must not register anything stronger than mild agitation or nervousness. Extreme agitation, howling or uncontrolled barking is an automatic failure.

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