

## **BUDDY'S PALS TESTING REQUIREMENTS**

### **To become a member of BUDDY'S PALS**

- The handler must demonstrate that they have control of the dog at all times without the use of force, pain, or leash corrections
- The dog must have an impeccable friendly temperament
- The team must pass *ALL* items on the BUDDY'S PALS performance evaluation
- The dog must have been trained without the use of an electronic, vibration, communication, or other type of e-collar

If a team does not pass all items on the evaluation at this time, they may try again after:

- additional obedience class has been taken at the handler's expense OR
- the dog is more mature and the handler is more experienced

### **Required Equipment**

- Regular clip on 6 ft leash of any material except chain or retractable
- Flat buckle or martingale collar (no slip leads, choke chains, prong, or other corrective collars) or a regular or front attachment harness (no corrective or chest constricting harnesses)

## **TEST ITEMS**

### **PART 1: TEMPERAMENT**

1. Handler will ask the dog to sit at their side while the evaluator approaches and introduces themselves to handler and asks if they may pet the dog. The evaluator will run their hands over the dog lightly touching collar, ears, legs, and muzzle. The dog should not jump up on evaluator or show fearful or aggressive behavior during handling.
2. With all teams standing 6-8 feet apart, a friendly dog will walk past 8 feet away until reaching the end of the line of handlers. The friendly dog and handler will then approach each team stopping about 6 feet away and will have a brief conversation before moving to the next team. The handler of the dog being tested can talk to or cue their dog but should not use the collar or leash to control the dog. The dog can show polite interest but should not make any attempt to interact with the other dog. The dog should not jump at, lunge, growl, vocalize, snap at, or show other fearful behaviors toward the other dog.

### **PART 2: COMMON TRIGGERS**

1. An "unusual" person (bearded man in hat, person walking with unusual gate, etc) will approach each team and ask to pet dog. Dog may show mild concern but should be willing to approach freely without jumping on, vocalizing, or exhibiting fearful or unfriendly behavior.
2. Repeat with someone using crutches.
3. Repeat with person in a wheel chair.

4. Drop a metal bowl or other item that will cause a sudden noise. Dogs can be startled but should recover quickly without showing signs of panic (struggling to get away, inability to settle within a few seconds).

### **PART 3: OBEDIENCE AND HANDLING**

#### **1. Sit and Down**

Before starting the loose leash walking portion of the test, the handler will demonstrate that the dog can sit and down on cue. Cues can be verbal, hand signals, or both and may be repeated but handler may not touch the dog or use leash pressure.

#### **2. Loose Leash Walking**

Team will walk through a crowd of at least 3-5 people making sure to pass each one. Dog can be interested but may not jump on, lick, or "goose" the crowd members with their muzzle. Handler may talk to and encourage dog but may not use leash corrections.

#### **3. Leave It**

After exiting the "crowd" the dog and handler should pass by a person seated at a table eating a snack. Team will circle the table leaving 6-8 feet between themselves and the person eating. Team will then approach and handler will ask the dog to sit or down while seated person drops food. Handler may cue the dog to leave it or to stay but dog should not make any attempt to get to the dropped food. Seated person should pick up food and dog and handler will walk away.

#### **4. Recall**

With dog in a sit or down handler will walk 20 feet away, turn, and call the dog. Dog should return promptly to the handler.

### **PART 4: KID TEST**

1. With the team in the center of the room a child will stand 8-10 feet away and when asked will jump up and down, say their name as loud as they can, and then run as fast as they can around the room yelling as they go. Dog can show interest but should not be pulling at leash to get to the child and should not show fearful behavior (hiding, trying to get away).
2. When child returns to original spot, they will be stand still quietly with hands at sides and team will approach to within 6 feet. The child will call the dog and encourage the dog to come to them. Dog should approach willingly and allow petting without any signs of fear and without jumping up. Child should pet dog on chest or shoulder for 5-10 sec and stop. If dog chooses to re-engage, child should pet again and then handler and dog will walk away. If dog returns to handler, child should encourage dog to return.
3. Handler will sit in a chair and ask the dog to lie down (may use a mat if dog has a "place" command). Child will approach and sit next to the dog and read a short story. Dog should stay in a down until story is finished and handler releases the dog. Dog should not show any signs of fear or stress while child is seated close.

After passing all the items in the above tests, dog and handler are now a BUDDY'S PALS team!