



What will you and your Animal have to do during the PP Skill and Aptitude Test?

Requirements are clearly described in your Pet Partner Team Training Manual. Everyone needs this manual to complete the registration process. The Skill and Aptitude test is a tool that helps assess overall sociability and observes how much you and your dog are enjoying the activity. It helps to test the intensity of interactions to make a suitable match when visiting. These tests are designed primarily for dogs with variations to accommodate different species. During the test you must be supportive and encouraging to your dog and interactive with the dog and patient. The entire test is a role-play, so enjoy the learning opportunity!

Essentials: As a team, you must pass all of the Skill Test to qualify:

- ☉ Your dog must be accepting of a friendly stranger and willing to sit politely for petting and grooming. All animals must be clean, healthy and well-groomed. Attire for the team should be appropriate to the setting chosen for visiting.
- ☉ The dog must accept a thorough, overall handling by a stranger (fingers in mouth, on tail, feet, etc).
- ☉ Dogs should be willing to go out for a walk on a loose lead without pulling or dragging. Guiding is acceptable, but the handler shouldn't have to repeatedly re-direct the dog into a loose leash walk.
- ☉ The team needs to walk through a crowd on loose leash and be subjected to visual and audio distractions without the dog panicking, becoming aggressive, frightened or too submissive. Reacting out of curiosity is fine.
- ☉ Basic training is a must. All dogs that are tested on the ground are required to sit, down, stay and come when called.
- ☉ The team must be able to pass a "neutral dog" team with calmness (i.e., not approaching without your permission).

Essentials: As a team, you may score "not ready" on no more than two of the following Aptitude Test to still pass. Generally, this criterion relates to people, equipment, sounds and a variety of diverse situations that you and your partner may encounter during therapy visits.

- ☉ A restrained hug and more intense acceptance of handling from head to toe.
- ☉ A staggering, gesturing individual.
- ☉ Angry yelling going on nearby and not directed at the team.
- ☉ Crowded petting by several people at once.
- ☉ Exposure to a person moaning in pain, unusual headgear, walkers, wheelchairs, etc.
- ☉ Ability to ignore a fluffy toy at your request.
- ☉ Ability and willingness to take a treat gently.

NEPP does not advocate forcing our animal companions to participate in therapeutic situations if doing so makes them miserable. If you have questions or feel unsure after reading this information, please call and ask for more detailed responses. Enjoy the Journey!