



## How Well Do You Know Your Dog?

Think about your dog and their experiences and reactions to each of the following situations. It is ideal if each adult in the home completes this separately, then compares responses. We often view our dogs differently.

### Socialization

- Has your dog been around infants?
- How does your dog act when children are around?
- Does your dog show fear or caution when guests enter your home?
- Have you had toddlers in your home with your dog?

### Training experience

- Does your dog consistently follow your cues?
- Has your dog been exposed to corrective-based training or alpha/dominance techniques in the past?
- Does your dog follow directions when you are in different parts of the house or outside?
- Has your dog had guard-work or protection training?

### Sights

- Does your dog bark or react to people wearing hats or glasses?
- Is your dog more reactive on night walks?
- Is there someone (or a type of person) your dog seems fearful or nervous around?
- Does your dog become nervous when you rearrange furniture?
- Does your dog get excited about bikes, cars, or fast moving objects?
- Have you used laser pointers to play with your dog?

### Sounds

- Is thunder or the 4<sup>th</sup> of July difficult for your dog?
- Does your dog startle easily in the home when there is a sudden noise?
- Do unfamiliar noises cause your dog to bark?
- Does the doorbell cause chaos in your home?

### Smells

- Does your dog have a reaction to perfumes or strong odors?
- Does your dog actively hunt things out?
- Does your dog sneeze often? Examples: when cooking or meeting people?

### Handling/touch

- Is your dog sensitive to a certain type of touch?
- Does your dog object to being touched on certain parts of his body?
- Is there any type of physical condition your dog has that may cause him pain or discomfort?



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- Does your dog dislike being groomed?

#### Attention seeking behaviors

- Does your dog whine, bark, paw or do anything to get your attention?
- Is your dog destructive in the home?
- Does your dog initiate feeding time? Example: 5pm = barking and circling food area?
- Does your dog get into trash? Dirty laundry?
- Does your dog demand to be played with?

#### Guarding behaviors

- Does your dog object when asked to get down or move over?
- Has your dog ever growled when you took something away from him?
- Does your dog growl when you approach his food bowl? His bone?
- Does your dog complain vocally to you if asked to do something? Examples: growls, snaps, or whines?
- Is there someone your dog seems protective of?

#### Outside

- When he's outside, is your dog on a chain or tie out?
- Does your dog have a separate fenced-in area in your yard?
- Does he have his own landscaping technique – is he a digger?
- Has your dog been exposed to invisible fencing?

#### Separation

- Is your dog destructive when left home alone?
- Does your dog object to being crated?
- Can your dog be separated from you when you are home?

This handout is meant to help you focus on how your dog reacts or handles different situations and stimuli. Babies, toddlers, preschoolers and teenagers all offer different experiences for our dogs. The more you “know” about your dog, the better you are able to set them up for success.

Creating positive experiences through short and successful interaction is important for long term success between kids and dogs.

Please contact your Family Paws Parent Education licensed educator to discuss what you have learned or any concerns you have about your dog. Now is the time to evaluate and improve undesirable behaviors. 877-247-2407