

CANINE TESTING INSTRUCTIONS

Thank you for your participation in this study; by taking part you are contributing to the welfare of dogs, especially those who are in a need of a home. The four tests may be administered consecutively at one time, or they may be done at separate times. Please read all of the instructions for each test prior to starting.

Required equipment and space needed to administer tests:

1. Smartphone with video recording capabilities or video camera
2. Second & minute timer (e.g. stopwatch or kitchen timer) *Use the timer for precise measurements of time required in the tests*
3. Empty corner of a room to create a square testing area 5ft/150cm across.
4. A room with door that can be closed (an empty room is preferable)
5. Four chairs, each approximately 18in/45cm wide (e.g. dining room chairs)
6. Four bed sheets or large towels
7. A baby gate, metal dog crate insert, or similar type of fencing/gate which the dog can see through
8. Dog bowl
9. Dog treats
10. Dog leash
11. At least five dog toys of different types (e.g. balls, ropes, squeaky toys)
12. Three opaque cups
13. A second handler for the dog (only required for one of the tests)

PLEASE REMAIN SILENT DURING THE TESTING PHASES AND DO NOT INTERACT WITH THE DOG IN ANY OTHER WAYS THAN THOSE DESCRIBED IN THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR EACH TEST,

L-Shaped Food Finding Test

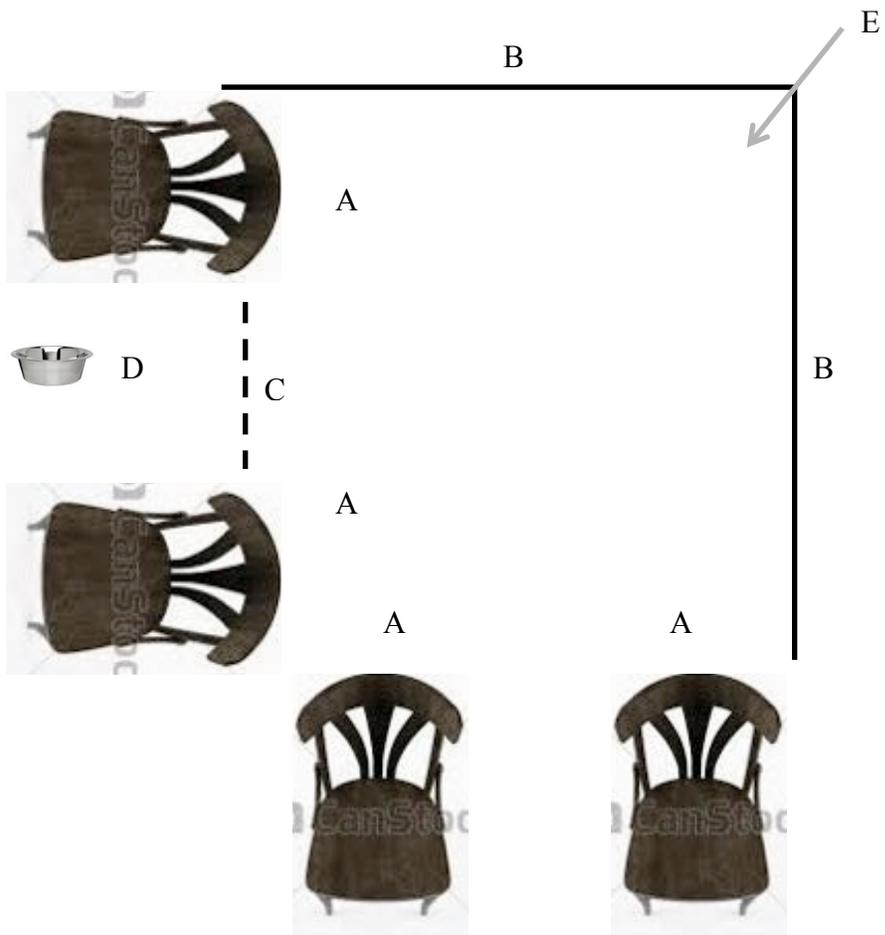
I. Setup instructions (see Figure 1)

1. In an empty corner of a room, place four chairs (e.g. dining room chairs) in a right angle to create the borders of a square testing area (A) with the walls forming the other two sides of the perimeter (B); the testing area should be approximately 5ft/150cm².
2. Allow for two spaces (approximately 18in/45cm wide) between chairs; the sides of the two chairs forming a corner should be touching.
3. Drape the bed sheets or towels over each of the chairs; they should fully cover the chairs and reach the floor.
4. Place the gate (C) in front of one of the openings so that it blocks the opening.
5. Place a few dog treats in the dog bowl and set it aside where the dog cannot reach it (e.g. on a counter or table).

II. Testing instructions (see Figure 1)

1. Have the dog enter the testing area.
2. Allow the dog an opportunity to explore the whole area (including behind the chairs) and move about it freely for sixty seconds.
3. Put the dog on lead while inside the testing area; reach over the gate and place the bowl of treats outside of the space behind the gate (D); do not allow the dog to access the treats yet.
4. While on lead, position the dog in the back corner of the testing area (i.e. the corner of the wall) (E).
5. Once the dog is properly positioned and still on lead, stand next to the dog and start video recording. Ideally the camera should be positioned to view the entire testing area; if this is not possible, it should be used to track the dog (a second operator will be required for this).
6. Take the dog off lead.
7. Allow the dog to move freely about the environment and observe them for 30 seconds.
8. Stop video recording.
9. Answer the relevant items on the testing questionnaire.

Figure 1



Testing area example



Time Alone Test

I. Setup instructions

1. Place five toys around the perimeter of the testing room.
2. Place a chair or tripod in a corner of the room.
3. Use the chair to prop up the smartphone or video camera; start video recording.

II. Testing instructions

1. Lead the dog into the testing room; leave the dog alone in the room with the door closed.
2. Leave the dog off lead and allow him/her to explore the space for 30 seconds.
3. Re-enter the room at the 30-second mark. Pick up the toys that were scattered around the room and try to initiate play with the dog using any of the toys (i.e. if he or she isn't interested in a particular toy, try all of the toys to see if there is interest in any of them). If the dog is willing, continue to play with the dog for two minutes using the toys.
4. At the two-minute mark, leave the dog in the room with the toys with the door closed.
5. Stay outside of the room for two minutes.
6. Re-enter the room at the two-minute mark, and try to re-engage the dog in play using the toys for a final two-minute period.
7. Stop video recording.
8. Answer the relevant items on the testing questionnaire.

Three-Toy Test

I. Setup instructions

1. Place various types of toys (e.g. rope toys, balls, squeaky toys) in a bucket or similar item, and place the bucket in the centre of the testing room.
2. Place a chair or tripod in a corner of the room.
3. Use the chair or tripod to prop up the smartphone or video camera; start video recording. (A tripod can be used in lieu of a chair.)

II. Testing instructions

1. Lead the dog into the room off lead and allow him/her to choose three toys from the bucket; remove the bucket with the rest of the toys in it from the room.
2. Rank the toys in the order the dog removed them from the bucket (i.e. first toy chosen = #1; second toy chosen = #2; third toy chosen = #3).
3. Remove toy #1 and toy #2 from the room.
4. Allow the dog to play with toy #3 for two minutes.
5. Present the dog with toy #1, and see if the dog is willing to exchange toy #3 for toy #1. **Willingness to exchange a toy is defined by a dog releasing it from his/her mouth or paws without displaying any adverse behaviours, such as growling, baring teeth, or barking. Do not proceed to attempt to exchange the toy if the dog is unwilling as per this criterion.**
6. Stop video recording.
7. Answer the relevant items on the testing questionnaire.

Pointing test

The test has four phases.

(See Figure 2 for set-up and placement)

Phase 1

1. Leave the dog outside of the testing room during set-up. In the testing room, place three upside down opaque cups in a row on the floor with about 18 inches (45cm) between each cup.
2. Hide a treat under cup 1.
3. Place a chair or tripod in a corner of the room.
4. Use the chair or tripod to prop up the smartphone or video camera; start video recording.
5. Have the dog enter the room on lead with the second handler and position the dog so that he/she is in front of the row of cups but cannot reach them (i.e. approx. 18-24 inches away from cups) (A).
6. Stand facing the dog so that the row of cups is in between you and the dog (B).
7. Wait for the dog to catch your gaze, and then point to cup 1.
8. Have the second handler take the dog off lead and allow him/her free rein of the testing area.
9. Answer the items pertaining to phase 1 on the testing questionnaire.
10. Remove the dog from the room.

Phase 2

11. Repeat steps 1, 2, 5, & 6 (i.e. the treat is under cup 1, but you are not pointing at it indicating its location in any other way, such as by eye gaze).
12. Wait for the dog to catch your gaze, and then they point to cup 3.
13. Repeat steps 8-10 except answer the items pertaining to phase 2 on the testing questionnaire.

Phase 3

14. Repeat step 1.
15. Hide a treat under cup 3.
16. Repeat steps 5 & 6.
17. Repeat step 12.
18. Repeat steps 8-10 except answer the items pertaining to phase 3 on the testing questionnaire.

Phase 4

19. Repeat step 1.
20. Hide a treat under cup 3.
21. Repeat steps 5, 6, & 7.
22. Repeat steps 8-10 except answer the items pertaining to phase 4 on the testing questionnaire.

Figure 2

