

# Badass Breeder Puppy Aptitude Test



## Badass Breeder's Puppy Evaluation

Items Needed	10 Step Puppy Handling Exercises
1. An object that makes a sudden, unpredictable movement (i.e. an umbrella or jack-in-the-box etc.)	11. Rub on and tug ears
2. Tug toys	12. Cover eyes
3. A ball or two that the puppy cannot swallow (i.e. a tennis ball or smaller ball)	13. Open mouth and run fingers on gums
4. A popper or other method to make a sound that is not common in their daily curriculum	14. Rub belly in circular motions
5. An obstacle or two (i.e. wobble board, wobble cushion, tunnel, box etc.)	15. Run hand down back and back up again then pat on back
6. A tarp	16. Tug and twist (circular motion) on tail
7. A stuffed dog that does not look like your dogs (ears up, down, color, tail, etc.)	17. Touch all paws and push in between pads
8. Badass Breeder Puppy Evaluation Score Card (enclosed)	18. Tap nails
9. A trained tester (you will have to train them)	19. Run fingers around neck and tug on collar
10. A camera and good lighting	20. Touch their nose

### Important Notes About Testing

- Build trust and rapport first. Do not add any test elements until the puppy is comfortable and relaxed, whether resting, playing tug, fetch or interacting with the tester. When body language is relaxed and happy, then move on. Keep in mind, there may be several times during the test that you have to “stop” and reduce stress through tug, fetch or human interaction (puppy will tell you what they enjoy most). While it may seem like you are wasting time, the puppy is still telling us a lot about them (nerve strength and focus!) Do not be in a rush.
- When the puppy is in a state of stress, do not add more stress. If a puppy exhibits behaviors such as yawning, lip smacking, whale eyes, shaking, avoidance, whining, etc., then slow down and destress (play with puppy, etc.). The more times you have to “stop” to destress will help you determine the puppy’s nerve strength. If you cannot get puppy out of a stressed state, then stop the test.
- You can customize the test as needed, to help you evaluate for specific traits or characteristics. For example, if you are looking for a diabetic alert dog, you can add a scent detection element. If you are looking for a bird dog, you can add the appropriate scent and an overhead object to gauge awareness. Think through potential added elements, and what you are hoping to evaluate, before you add new parts to the test.
- Try to be an unbiased evaluator, leaving any preconceived notions about specific puppies at the door. You may see qualities about pups that surprise you. Puppies may not be the “same” when they are not in the safety of the litter.
- Take your time and relax. If things are not going as planned (you are not in the right head space, the tester is struggling, puppies are not acting like themselves, etc.), then stop the test and run your puppies through it on another day.

## Badass Breeder Puppy Evaluation

Trait Tested	Low	Medium	High	How to Test
<b>Assertiveness (human)</b>	Takes time to approach and may need coaxing. May do so in an army crawl or approach tester from behind or side. Innately polite and will rarely challenge testers space.	Approaches with politeness. Crawls into lap or sits next to tester. May mouth hands. Generally, challenges testers space as they become comfortable.	Approaches tester with authority without regard to personal space. Jumps on tester - face, back, etc.	Have the tester sit on the floor in the middle of the room. Let the puppy approach on his or her own accord. Do not engage the puppy for 30 seconds. If the puppy refuses to engage because he or she lacks interest, then it will be difficult to determine assertiveness.
<b>Confidence</b> Belief in own abilities and approach to a new situation.	Unsure of self and abilities. Army crawls or goes and hides. May seek human reassurance. Exhibits stress throughout the test. Yawning, lip licking, avoidance, shaking, avoidance	Some hesitation or startle to test situations but stays the course or quickly returns. Overall relaxed body posture. May seek mild human reassurance.	Approaches new situations with curiosity and eagerness. Tail high, keen interest in surroundings and truly enjoys the challenge of the test.	Observe the puppy's initial reactions upon entering testing area, which is an unfamiliar person, objects and place). Additionally, observe his or her approach to situations throughout test.  fear vs. confidence cues
<b>Motivation Level</b> Intrinsic desire to work for and with a human. Can also be called his or her workability.	Very little effort to do as asked. May not fetch, could take toys and leave. Often ignores when tester calls. Does not always follow. May be considered self-serving, disinterested or distractible. <b>"What's in it for me?"</b>	Shows interest in fetching, following, and bringing toys to you for more interaction. Can be just as happy playing on their own. Give and take interactions with tester is seen. <b>"Ok, why not?"</b>	Wants nothing more than to work, please you and be underfoot. Pup works hard to understand what you want and maintains focus and interaction with tester. Gladly fetches and returns items. <b>"What's next?"</b>	Build a relationship with pup thru affection and a game of fetch or tug. How hard does the tester have to work to create the relationship with the pup so that fetching, following and working through obstacles is achieved?
<b>Nerve Strength/ Resiliency</b> Ability to handle and manage stress in reaction to situations.	Stress is displayed frequently throughout the test. The pup needs time to recover before moving to another part of the test or is unable to recover.	Displays some stress throughout the test but recovers within three seconds.	The puppy does not exhibit any real stress during the test. The pup may startle once or twice but immediately recovers and investigates. Pup is relatively bomb proof and not bothered by much.	These characteristics are observed throughout the test. For example, you should take note of the pup's reactions to: i) the movement of objects, ii) the introduction of new testing elements, iii) how many times do you have to pause the test to avoid stacking stress so that the pup is unable to recover from stress. Pay particular attention to stress signals: yawning, lip smacking, shaking, ears pinned, vocalizing, accelerated movement, refusal to move, avoidance, seeking human reassurance, whale eyes, etc.

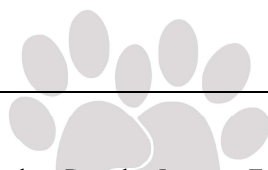
<b>Touch Tolerance</b>	Fights handling and acts annoyed. Tries to wiggle out of testers arms.	Is compliant most of the time but certain handling irritates pup and they protest. The pup may also comply to entire test but remains tense.	Pup is compliant with touch and often enjoys it.	For this portion of the test, the tester holds the pup and runs through the “10 Step Puppy Handling Exercise” – while standing. This exercise is outlined above. <b>Stop immediately if pup struggles intensely.</b>
<b>Energy Level</b>	Pup often lays down, sits or stands still during the test.	Has moments of faster movement, but just as often will slow down.	Movement is fast and fairly intense, and pup never slows down. Pup is active and “larger than life”.	Observe the puppy’s movement during test.
<b>Sound Sensitivity</b>	No startle or signs of stress resulting from sound.	Startles, takes a moment to assess the sound and then shakes it off or investigates. May need encouragement.	Startles to sound and then flees, looks to hide, barks and / or retreats, shakes, etc. Visibly stressed and may not recover.	Make a loud noise your pup will be unfamiliar with, such as a Fisher Price Toy Popper. Ensure the pup’s attention is on the sound and not the movement of the object.
<b>Sight Sensitivity</b>	No startle or signs of stress resulting from unpredictable movement.	Startles, takes a moment to assess the sound and then shakes it off or investigates. May need encouragement.	Startles to sight and then flees, looks to hide, barks and or retreats, shakes, etc. Visibly stressed and may not recover.	Create an unpredictable movement with an unfamiliar object. Such as, opening an umbrella or jack in the box.
<b>Prey Drive</b>	Little to no interest is seen in toys, playing tug and or chase.	Exhibits interest in toys, tug and chase is seen, but pup is easily distracted from toys by other activity.	Immediately gravitates toward toys where shaking and chomping are seen. Pup is intensely focused and hard to distract. Drive is easily triggered by movement.	Gauge interest in toys, tug, and movement of tester that encourages puppy to chase, stalk, pounce.
<b>Human Focus (pack drive)</b>	Little to no interest in the tester.	Interested in tester but easily distracted by other activity.	Immediately seeks tester connection. The pup eagerly stays with tester as he and she moves about the testing area and focus is difficult to break.	Observe interaction and overall interest in tester throughout the test.

Trait Tested	Not	Moderately	Highly	Extremely	How to Test
<b>Tender hearted</b>	No concern, just wants to play and/or investigate. Might mouth, pull, chew on clothes, etc. Unaware of distress and/or disinterested.	Concerned with testers well-being. May cuddle, lick or otherwise try to console, but loses interest quickly and wanders off or wants to play.	Concerned with testers well-being. May cuddle, lick or otherwise try to console, puppy stays with tester and feels responsible for their well-being.	Too overwhelmed with intense emotions, puppy tries to flee, avoids, cries, etc. Puppy may initially approach but then leaves not wanting anything to do with the tester.	Tester will "fall to ground" crying or screaming with intense emotion

Trait Tested	Submissive	Neutral	Assertive	How to Test
<b>Dog Friendliness</b>	May tuck tail, crouch and / or crawl to greet dog. May present belly, lick mouth and face.	Notices dog but does not approach, doesn't show signs of fear only disinterest.	Tail raised, proud posture, confident in dog's space, tugging on ears, jumping on neck trying to engage in play. May initiate interaction by sniffing dog's rear but that is not always indicative of assertiveness.	Watch how pup initially approaches and interacts with stuffed dog. Pups can quickly realize it is a toy. At that point, their reaction is no longer indicative of their friendliness toward dogs and the following observations are inconclusive.

**Notes regarding the tester / testing area or any concerns:**

Empty space for notes regarding the tester / testing area or any concerns.



# Score Interpretations

## Pet Homes

Type of Home	Desired Traits	Obstacles
<b>With Young Children</b>  NOTE: The age of children does need to be taken into consideration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human focus</li> <li>• Low sight sensitivity</li> <li>• Low sound sensitivity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High Prey Drive</li> <li>• High Energy</li> <li>• High Assertiveness</li> <li>• Low touch tolerance</li> <li>• Low nerve strength / resiliency</li> <li>• Extremely tenderhearted</li> </ul>
<b>Young Adult(s) (or no children at present)</b>  NOTE - If a young couple expects to have children in the near future, keep that in mind when providing guidance.	Varies on the individual's / couple's needs and desires	Varies on individual's / couple's needs and desires
<b>Retired</b>	Varies on the individual's / couple's needs and desires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High Energy</li> <li>• High Prey Drive</li> </ul>
<b>Emotional Support Animal (ESA) for People with Depression and / or Anxiety</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human focus</li> <li>• Low sight sensitivity</li> <li>• Low sound sensitivity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High Energy</li> <li>• High Prey Drive</li> <li>• Extremely or highly tenderhearted</li> <li>• Low touch tolerance</li> <li>• Low nerve strength / resiliency</li> <li>• Low Confidence</li> </ul>

## Working Homes

Type of Work	Desired Traits	Obstacles
<b>Service Dog</b>  NOTE - You must know the following information to accurately evaluate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Type of services the dog will be trained to perform</li> <li>• Age of the handler</li> <li>• Handler ability</li> <li>• Professional vs. owner-trained</li> <li>• Environment in which the dog will be worked (school, office, in-home only etc.)</li> <li>• Level of activity / hours expected to work</li> <li>• Traits from multiple categories may be needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High confidence</li> <li>• Low sight sensitivity</li> <li>• Low sound sensitivity</li> <li>• High motivation</li> <li>• High nerve strength/resiliency</li> </ul> <p><u>Other traits that may be beneficial:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Item Retrieval - If the puppy is proud to carry items but exhibits a generally low prey drive, he or she may be well-suited for mobility / psychiatric work etc., assuming he or she exhibits the other desired traits.</li> <li>• Nose Awareness - If the puppy desires to explore its environment with his or her nose, constantly sniffing the ground or air, he or she may be well-suited for diabetic alert or other nose work, assuming he or she exhibits the other desired traits.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low Assertiveness</li> <li>• Low energy</li> <li>• Low touch tolerance</li> <li>• Extremely Tenderhearted</li> </ul> <p><u>Things to keep in mind:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a pup exhibits low assertiveness and / or is highly or extremely tenderhearted, this pup should not be placed in a psychiatric, seizure alert or medical response capacity.</li> <li>• If a pup exhibits low prey drive, he or she may not be a good candidate for scent work, such as a diabetic alert dog or search and rescue.</li> </ul>



<p><b>Therapy Dog</b></p> <p>NOTE - You must know the following information to accurately evaluate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Type of therapy the dog must perform and the people that he or she will interact with</li> <li>• Handler ability and experience</li> <li>• Professional vs. owner-trained</li> <li>• Environment in which the dog will be worked (school, nursing home, hospital etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High touch tolerance</li> <li>• Low sight sensitivity</li> <li>• Low sound sensitivity</li> <li>• Human focus</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High prey drive</li> <li>• High energy</li> <li>• High assertiveness (depends on the handler's experience)</li> <li>• Extremely tenderhearted</li> <li>• Low nerve strength / resiliency</li> <li>• Low confidence</li> </ul> <p><u>Things to keep in mind:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highly tenderhearted pups may not be able to handle intense emotional environments.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Facility Dog</b></p> <p>NOTE - You must know the following information to accurately evaluate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Type of facility work the dog must perform and the people that he or she will interact with</li> <li>• Handler ability and experience</li> <li>• Professional vs. owner-trained</li> <li>• Environment in which the dog will be worked (school, hospital, airport, nursing home, prison, church etc.)</li> <li>• Level of activity / hours expected to be worked</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High touch tolerance</li> <li>• Low sight sensitivity</li> <li>• Low sound sensitivity</li> <li>• Human focus</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High prey drive</li> <li>• Low touch tolerance</li> <li>• High assertiveness (depends on the handler's ability)</li> <li>• Extremely tenderhearted</li> <li>• Low nerve strength / resiliency</li> <li>• Low confidence</li> </ul> <p><u>Things to keep in mind:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highly tenderhearted pups may not be able to handle intense emotional environments.</li> </ul>



# Badass Breeder Puppy Score Card

Puppy:

Trait Tested	Low	Medium	High
<b>Assertiveness (human)</b>			
<b>Confidence</b> Belief in his or her own abilities and approach to new situations.			
<b>Motivation Level</b> Intrinsic desire to work for and with a human. Also, can be called his or her workability.			
<b>Nerve Strength/Resiliency</b> Ability to handle and manage stress in reaction to situations.			
<b>Touch Tolerance</b>			
<b>Energy Level</b>			
<b>Sound Sensitivity</b>			
<b>Sight Sensitivity</b>			
<b>Prey Drive</b>			
<b>Human Focus or Pack Drive</b>			

Trait Tested	Not	Moderately	Highly	Extremely
<b>Tenderhearted</b>				

Trait Tested	Submissive	Neutral	Assertive
<b>Dog Friendliness</b>			

<b>Notes</b>