Utilizing Evaluations and Testing as Predictors of Career Aptitude

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Overview

- We use various tests and evaluations to assess a dog’s personality and skill level
  - Border Patrol
  - TSA Test
  - Environmental Test
  - FSA
  - CBARQ
  - Behavioral Checklist Evaluation

- Still in the process of collecting data on dogs

- Hoping to see if certain personality traits or skills of a dog are predictive of the dog’s career and success
Quori: A Case Study

- Part of our “Q litter”
- Narcotics detection dog
- We will be watching Quori’s performance on our evaluations and assessments
- See how his personality and skills contribute to his success in his career
Border Patrol

- Measures elements of drive and confidence
- Our litters: 4 weeks - 13.5 weeks
- Donated puppies: 8 weeks - 13.5 weeks
- Expose puppies to new environments/surfaces and observe and score response
- Engage puppy with different toys, noises, and movements
Quori Border Patrol
TSA: Search (Hunt) and Retrieve Test

- Measures: physical possession, search/hunt ability, retrieval ability, focus, intensity
- Search (hunt) and retrieve toy, delay in release
- Search with distractions
- 3, 6, 9, & 12 months
TSA Video
Environmental Testing

- Nerve strength exercises, sociability in a crowded area, and conflict testing
- 4, 7, 11, 14 months
- Off lead in a crowd of people in a closed space
- Reaction in unfamiliar, public location
- Exposed to different surfaces
- Exposed to enclosed spaces, loud noises
- Test toy drive in presence of food, water, and when handler not present
Quori Environmental Testing Video
Fundamental Skills Assessment (FSA)

- Developed from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) Disaster Search Dog Evaluation
- Used to monitor training progress
- Starts at 6 months, updated every month
- Assesses aggression, obedience, direction and control, agility, search ability, final response, and scent work
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skills &amp; Comments</th>
<th>Green Dog</th>
<th>Tier 1</th>
<th>Tier 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Obedience</strong></td>
<td>Beginner</td>
<td>Y/N</td>
<td>Y/N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loose Leash Heel, Figure 8 around 2 K9 posts 10 ft. apart - K9 are familiar - Inside, and outside familiar environment</td>
<td>Heels on lead with K9 posts 8 ft. apart - K9 are familiar and unfamiliar K9 - Outside environment at WDC</td>
<td>Heels on lead with K9 posts 5 ft. apart - K9 are Unfamiliar K9 - Any environment</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tie out human aggression</td>
<td>No reaction</td>
<td>No reaction</td>
<td>No reaction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off lead heeling through a crowd of milling people</td>
<td>Heels on lead outside, in familiar environment</td>
<td>Heels on lead through crowd of milling people inside/outside in familiar and unfamiliar environments</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recall w/ Emergency stop</td>
<td>-Recalls to handler in training room -Performs random down 15-20 feet from handler * skills are not yet combined</td>
<td>-Recalls to handler with distractions in training room or training field and -performs down or sit on recall within 5-8 strides of command *skills combined</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Skills Level Assessment Sheet**

**Assessment Date:** 8-16-16

**K9 name:** Quori

**Handler:** Donna Magness

**Very slow to down**
Developed by researchers at the Center for the Interaction of Animals and Society at the University of Pennsylvania

Helps to identify genetic indicators of successful detection dogs

Asks questions about training and obedience, aggression, fear and anxiety, separation behavior, excitability, attachment, attention seeking

Provides standardized evaluations of dog behavior and temperament

Extensively tested for reliability and validity on a large sample of various dog breeds
Every 6 month, his foster answered 103 questions

How did Quori respond to common events, situations, and stimuli in his environment?

- Playful, puppyish, boisterous
- Active, energetic, always on the go
- Displays a strong attachment for one particular member of the household
- Will attempt to retrieve sticks, balls, or objects
- Shows signs of anxiety or fear in response to sudden or loud noises
- Stares intently at nothing visible
Behavioral Checklist Evaluation

Survey filled out trainer every four months

- Measures
  - fear and anxiety
  - noise sensitivity
  - attachment
  - body sensitivity
  - behavior in stressful situations

- excitability
- fidgetiness
- barking
- energy levels
- focus
- aggression
Quori Drug Video
Quori Post Graduation Data

In less than four months, Quori and his handler
- Conducted 45 drug searches
- Made 73 arrests
- Seized over $24,900 worth of drugs

*for the unsuccessful drug search, there was reason to believe drugs were recently transported in the vehicle
What we hope to find

- Through testing, do the scores accurately predict a dog's ability to work in a specific area?
- How would our working dogs compare to the average pet dogs’ scores?
- Find or develop tests for a wider variety of canine careers
Save the Date

April 20-23, 2018
Philadelphia, PA

PENN VET WORKING DOG CONFERENCE
2018 CREATING THE WORKING DOG: Puppy to Professional