

## Temperament Testing

Typically the temperament test is conducted at the owner and dog's home, and involves the following:

1. Owner interview: Questions such as: age, breed, identification of dog (microchip, tattoo, tags) and a photograph of the dog will be taken; where the dog is kept (house, yard, kennel); role of the dog (family dog, guard dog, protection, hunting, etc); if the dog has a history of biting people or other animals; if there are other pets in the family, how the dog behaves around other animals and people, etc.

2. Observation of dog's behavior in different situations, such as:

Dog's behavior in its dwelling - if the dog allow visitors to enter, if the dog is territorially aggressive (the dog doesn't have to be happy about allowing visitors to enter, but it should not drive visitors away with aggressive behavior)

Basic obedience: does the dog "sit", "down", come after being called (with and without distraction), heel on a leash; Perfect obedience of commands is not necessary, but the owner must demonstrate that he or she can control the dog leashed and unleashed.

How the dog reacts to meeting running persons, in particular children, and anxious persons: The dog does not have to accept being touched by everyone, but it is not permitted to react aggressively, if the owner has forbidden to do so.

Behavior against a person, who approaches the dog owner: The dog is not allowed to show any form of aggression.

Prey-games: The dog has to deliver a thrown toy (ball) at least to its owner. When playing with the dog, pulling the toy, etc, the owner must be able to take away the dog's toy at any time either by command or by physical action.

Behavior of the dog in a group of people: Several people stand close to each other in a smaller group. The dog's owner may have to walk across the group with his or her dog (the people do not touch the dog, but do not step aside either.)

Isolation of the dog: For this test the dog is leashed (as for example outside of a shop) and the owner moves outside the dog's range of vision. After a few minutes the dog is approached and spoken to, to determine whether the dog tends to aggression caused by fear or the will to defend its territory.

Reaction of the dog, when offered treats or when touched, if it is possible to inspect its ears and teeth, reaction of the dog while being gazed at, etc.

Important things about the test of the dog's character:

1. On demand the dog will be examined only leashed. In this case, the obligation of a leash will be recommended because the reactions without leash could not be examined. The obligation of a leash, however, can be lifted, if the owner later proves that he or she is able to control his or her unleashed dog to a sufficient degree, for example, after having visited a dog school.

2. Same-sex incompatibilities are to be regarded as normal behavior between dogs, if they do not get out of control. The dog owner must be able to control and to influence his or her dog psychologically and physically.
3. The dog owner is allowed to be near the dog in each test situation and is allowed to influence it, (except for a short time during the isolation-test).
4. The dog owner may videotape the whole examination, or have it videotaped by the person conducting the temperament test. The owner also can bring along a second person, except the person who prepared the dog for the test (such as a trainer).
5. Collars, not according to the rules of animal-protection, are not permitted (no electric collars or choke chains). Similarly, it is not allowed to calm the dog by the use of drugs.
6. If the dog, in some situations, does not react appropriately, the expert may issue a negative certification and/or recommend individual measures such as: obligation of leash or muzzle, obligation to visit a dog school, only specified persons are allowed to walk the dog etc. A castration cannot be recommended.

Hohenfels Community contact for testing:

Michael Pahlke, Hauzensteiner Str. # 54, 93128 Regenstrauf. You can contact him at his home number 08726-967686, cell number 01703-568031, or webpage [www.hundeschule-regensburg.de](http://www.hundeschule-regensburg.de).

The above information is provided as a service to the community. Listing of any facilities is not an endorsement or recommendation. This is not an all inclusive list and it is suggested that individuals use local resources such as the phone book and recommendations from host nation veterinarians.