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**Handler****Pet Partner****Team Name****Date**

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## **WAGS for Hope Team Evaluation**

### **Goal**

Our goal is to focus on the safety and suitability of partner teams. This evaluation aims to help determine if the pet and handler are suitable and prepared for situations they may encounter while on therapy visits.

### **Equipment**

- ☐ Pass with honors: buckle collar, harness, or gentle leader, 4-6 foot leash
- ☐ Needs work: choke, pinch, or prong collars, flexi lead, does not pass

### **Appearance and Grooming**

- ☐ Pass with honors: neat, professional appearance, dog clean and well groomed, ready to visit
- ☐ Pass: minor grooming or appearance recommendations, could use more support while being examined, okay being brushed, minimal stress
- ☐ Needs work: inappropriate clothing, dog in need of grooming, stressed, fearful

### **Handler Control**

Walking on loose leash, following cones, one time around cones

- ☐ Pass with honors: walks politely, no pulling or jumping, handler attending to animal
- ☐ Pass: some pulling, but handler has control of dog
- ☐ Needs work: excessive pulling or jumping; insufficient control of dog

Walking on leash, stops, demonstrates sit and down on command (small animal team: handler passes animal to 2-3 seated clients)

- ☐ Pass with honors: sits down on initial cue, relaxed, attentive to handler
- ☐ Pass: sits given firm tone of voice or needs commands repeated
- ☐ Needs work: multiple cues, harsh tone, animal did not stay in position or did not follow commands

Handling of dog when meeting new person, confirms person wants visit, dog under control when advances. (Dog can sit, stand, or down, but remain with handler on side)

- ☐ Pass with honors: sits or stands automatically for new person, maintains accessible position, handler attentive to dog, hand on dog
- ☐ Pass: needs cues to maintain proximity for petting, initially uncertain, but okay greeting and being pet
- ☐ Needs work: approaches without command, fearful/stressed, inadequate handler attention/ control of animal

Accepting a neutral person with petting and brushing, touching paws (not lifting leg)

- ☐ Pass with honors: while evaluator brushes dog, handler attends to animal first, dog sits or stands
- ☐ Pass: handler shows some support of animal and interaction with evaluator, dog over excited or timid, but recovers with cues from handler
- ☐ Needs work: inattention to animal or person, jumped up or avoided/shied away, fearful

### **Resiliency**

Reaction to “wacky stranger” approaching to handler/dog (gesturing, staggering, mumbling etc)

- ☐ Pass with honors: minimal reaction, still interested in interacting with stranger
- ☐ Pass: reacts with some caution but recovers with encouragement, handler able to read dog’s caution
- ☐ Needs work: reacts with great caution, slow to recover or doesn’t, handler not able to manage situation to keep dog comfortable

Reaction to wheelchair approach, greets on appropriate side

\_\_\_ Pass with honors: minimal reaction to wheelchair, still interested in interacting with new person

\_\_\_ Pass: reacts with caution but recovers quickly with encouragement, handler able to read dog's caution and manage situation to keep dog comfortable

\_\_\_ Needs work: reacts with great caution, slow to recover, handler not adequately managing situation

Reaction to walker approach, greets on side (small animals can be picked up)

\_\_\_ Pass with honors: minimal reaction to walker; dog interested in interacting with new person

\_\_\_ Pass: reacts with some caution but recovers quickly with encouragement, handler able to read dog's caution, manages situation to keep dog comfortable

\_\_\_ Needs work: reacts with great caution, slow or doesn't recover, handler not able to manage the situation to keep dog comfortable

Reaction to walking through a crowd, one crosses in front, one behind (drops something on floor) and another person crosses on a slant while evaluator bumps dog from behind

\_\_\_ Pass with honors: minimal reaction to crowd, interested in interacting with people, handler directs the movement/interactions

\_\_\_ Pass: handler proactive at times, minimal stress, some uncertainty, but recovers

\_\_\_ Needs work: inadequate leash control, few interactions, dog too distracted, fearful

Entering walkway all at once, one with a walker, going towards handler and dog (three or four role players), all wanting to pet the dog

\_\_\_ Pass with honors: attended to animal first, proactive, loose lead, dog relaxed enjoying attention

\_\_\_ Pass: dog must sit or stand quietly for the person to move or pet, some uncertainty, wanted still to visit

\_\_\_ Needs work: inattentive to animal, excessive cues/commands, animal fearful, distracted

Stay on command with dog on 4-6 foot leash (remains in area), never letting go of leash. Dog is given command to stay/wait, handler steps away holding leash, evaluator will pat dog, then evaluator will give instruction to 'call your dog', dog returns to handler when given command

\_\_\_ Pass with honors: dog returned to handler on initial cue, enjoys or ignores petting by evaluator, handler relaxed

\_\_\_ Pass: Handler used firm/pleasing voice, dog uncertain but recovers, enjoy or ignores interaction with evaluator

\_\_\_ Needs work: handler pulled leash, needed multiple commands/cues, dog shied away from or broke stay with evaluator, didn't return directly to handler on command

Reaction to neutral dog

\_\_\_ Pass with honors: mild interest in other dog, maintains proximity and attention to handler

\_\_\_ Pass: Distracted by other dog, doesn't maintain position but handler has control of dog

\_\_\_ Needs work: Very distracted by other dog, not responding to commands/cues, not remaining at side of handler, negative response to neutral dog

Exuberant, clumsy petting, firm hug and health check by evaluation team member

\_\_\_ Pass with honors: touches all parts of dog, simple touch, rub dog's ears, handler attending to dog

\_\_\_ Pass: Dog enjoys all contact or handler states what dog would not prefer, minimal stress

\_\_\_ Needs work: insufficient support of dog, over excited or fearful response to evaluator, inadequate support of dog, significant health concern

'Leave It' command: food/treats/toy on table or floor, dog can sniff but must leave it and walk by

\_\_\_ Pass with honors: minimal interest, handler provides command to leave it, loose lead

\_\_\_ Pass: firm/pleading tone, some tight lead, dog needed extra guidance but did not touch

\_\_\_ Needs work: touched/grabbed toy/treat/food, needed to be pulled away, stressed, harsh tone of voice

Offering a treat

- ☐ Pass with honors: handler directs evaluator and animal how to proceed, relaxed, dog took treat gently or declined treat
- ☐ Pass: handler gave some direction to evaluator, dog eager to get treat or uncertain but recovered
- ☐ Needs work: evaluator given insufficient instructions, dog given multiple cues, dog grabbed treat, fearful

Child READ Station: Handler sits on floor or chair, dog on leash beside, child on opposite side of dog

- ☐ Pass with honors: Dog sits or lays calmly by child with minimal cues
- ☐ Pass: Dog needs more cues to attend and remain in place, minimal excitement from distractions or touch from child
- ☐ Needs work: dog does not remain in position or respond to cues, does not show interest or tolerate interaction with child

Comments:

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**Handler**

**Date**

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**Sylvia Anderson – Evaluator**

**Date**

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