

Lake Metroparks Volunteer Companion Dog Patrol Certification Test

1: Accepting a Friendly Stranger

This test demonstrates that the dog will allow a friendly stranger to approach it and speak to the handler in a natural, everyday situation. The dog must show no sign of resentment or shyness and must not break position or try to go to the evaluator.

2: Sitting Politely for Petting

This test demonstrates that the dog will allow a friendly stranger to touch it while it is out with its handler. The dog must not show shyness or resentment.

3: Out for a Walk (walking on a loose leash)

This test demonstrates that the handler is in control of the dog. The dog may be on either side of the handler, whichever the handler prefers. The dog need not be perfectly aligned with the handler and need not sit when the handler stops.

4: Walking Through a Crowd

This test demonstrates that the dog can move about politely in pedestrian traffic and is under control in public places. The dog may show some interest in the strangers without appearing over-exuberant, shy, or resentful. The handler may talk to the dog and encourage or praise the dog throughout the test. The dog should not be straining at the leash.

5: Sit and Down on Command / Stay in Place

This test demonstrates that the dog has training, will respond to the handler's command to "sit" and "down", and will remain in place as commanded by the handler (sit or down position, whichever the handler prefers).

6: Reaction to Another Dog

This test demonstrates that the dog can behave politely around other dogs. The dogs should show no more than a casual interest in each other.

7: Reactions to Distractions

This test demonstrates that the dog is confident at all times when faced with common distracting situations, such as the dropping of a large book or a jogger running in front of the dog. The dog may express a natural interest and curiosity and may appear slightly startled, but should not panic, try to run away, show aggressiveness, or bark.

8: Supervised Separation

This test demonstrates that a dog can be left alone if necessary and will maintain its training and good manners. The dog will be held for three minutes and does not have to stay in position, but should not continually bark, whine, howl, pace unnecessarily, or show anything other than mild agitation or nervousness.

9: Interaction with Other Animals

This test demonstrates that the dog is under control and will not react adversely to other animals encountered in the park. For the purposes of this test, the animal used will be horses from the Volunteer Mounted Posse and Farmpark animals. Only casual interest should be demonstrated by the dog.

10: Reactions to Emergency Vehicles

This test demonstrates that the dog will remain under control when placed in close quarters with emergency vehicles as may be encountered on trails. The dog must not shy in any manner and be under control at all times.