

DTA Expert Thinker list of behaviours

	Name	Description and assessment criteria
1	Reading	Dog performs a trick written on a card or according to what is pictured on a card- at least with 3 cards requiring a different trick each
2	Stack the cups	Dog pick up stacking cups one by one and places each neatly inside the others or on the top of the others, stacking them all up, at least 5 cups. The cups can be all of the same size or set up for the dog in the right stacking sequence
3	Sort things out	Dog picks objects from the floor and sorts them into relevant 2 boxes according to handler's verbal instructions, at least 6 different objects. This could be plastic vs metal for recycling, dog toys vs clothes, balls vs everything else etc
4	Bring me	On a verbal cue dog brings the requested object out of the choice of at least five objects, repeat 3 times with different objects. All objects are stationary at the point of command and are not thrown for the dog to fetch. The handler must not point towards the right object to help the dog.
5	Tidy up	On cue dog opens up dog's toy box or any other box, picks up at least 3 toys or objects one by one, puts them into the box and closes the lid. The lid can be of any design. The toys need to be between the handler and the box with the box being further away from the handler. The handler must not point or assist the dog in tidying the toys.
6	Go and call	On request dog goes to the named family member or a familiar person and nudges or barks at them or using another safe and clear communication method until they follow the dog to you. The handler needs to tell before the start of the exercise what is the dog's way of letting the other person know that they are being called. Dog needs to perform the whole sequence on its own after the first cue.
7	Counting dog	Dog barks the required number of barks and stops on a subtle signal from handler. Repeat twice.
8	Point me	Dog indicates by giving a focused look, barking, pawing or in any other clear way an object named by the handler among 5 or more objects in front of it. Repeat 3 times with different objects
9	Find the object with handler scent	Handler briefly holds an object that is then placed at an equal distance of one foot apart among 5 other objects. Dog must not see which object the handler touched. Dog needs to find and clearly indicate the object with handler's scent on it.
10	Sort by colour	Dog selects yellow objects from the selection of objects in front and put green into one box/container and blue objects into another container. Alternatively, there could be yellow and blue container and the dog sorts the objects according to the colour of the container and put them there. Perform with 4 objects
11	Search for a hidden object in a room	Assistant shows an object (non-food type) to the dog and then hides it somewhere in the room without the dog or the handler knowing where it is. On command from the handler the dog performs a focused search of the room looking for that object. When the dog finds the object it needs to indicate to the handler or to bring the object to the handler.

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12	Pick card of right colour	Handler shows the dog a number of cards in different colour. The dog on handler command needs to pick up or indicate by touch cards of specified colour (yellow or blue) out of the selection- at least 3 accurately picked cards from the selection without any mistakes
13	Hand signals expert	Dog performs 10 different behaviours/skills on hand signal from the handler. The behaviours can be from any category
14	Fill the piggy bank	Dog picks up a coin and puts it through the coin slot in the piggy bank. Repeat 3 times
15	Build a tower	Dog builds a tower of at least 3 blocks or other objects requiring precision of placement and advanced coordination. The handler must not assist the dog
16	Coins into purse	On cue dog pick up metal coins from the floor and puts them into a purse. Demonstrate with at least 3 coins. On picking up the coins the dog zips up or closes the purse. Handler can assist the dog with the closing action by holding or supporting the purse.
17	Distance work expert	Dog performs 10 tricks at a distance of approximately 5m away from the handler. Voice or hand commands or both are allowed. Any tricks are permitted
18	Find the hidden object	Handler shows the dog an object and then hides it. The dog must be in another room or area where it can't see or hear where the handler hides the object. On command the dog enters the room or area and performs a focused search for the object. The handler must not help the dog with the voice commands or body directions. When the dog finds the object it needs to indicate its location to the handler or fetch it to handler's hand.
19	Deliver a food item	Dog is given or pick up a food item such as sausage, a large treat etc and delivers it to handler who is at least 2m away uneaten and gives to hand on command
20	Do as I do	Dog copies handler actions without the handler giving a specific cue for those actions. Demonstrate with 3 different tricks. Handler can use the command to indicate that the dog needs to repeat the action, but it has to be the same for all of the tricks.
21	CPR	Dog pretend performs CPR with chest compressions and pretend rescue breaths. Demonstrate 2 cycles of chest compressions and rescue breaths. Care needs to be taken with large dogs as it can be dangerous for the handler.
22	Mark it	While walking with the dog the handler drops an object and tells the dog to note its location. Both the handler and the dog continue walking for at least another 10 steps or more until the dog ignore the left object. Then the handler stops and instructs the dog to bring the marked object without pointing to it. Dog delivers the object to handler's hand
23	Voice only commands expert	Dog performs 10 different behaviours on voice command only without any visual cues, hand or body signals. The behaviours can be from any category.
24	Facing away from handler commands advanced	Dog performs 10 different behaviours on cue while facing away from handler or with the handler being completely out of sight
25	3 marks	Dog demonstrates that it can go to a specific mark and perform at least one trick on each of them. Perform with 3 marks as a flowing sequence

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26	Jenga	On cue dog carefully pick a brick from the jenga wooden blocks tower. Repeat twice. Tower does not have to stand but the brick needs to be picked not from the top and with all due care.
27	Piggy bank	On cue dog picks up a coin or a similar thin small object and puts it into a slot of a piggy bank or equivalent. Repeat with 3 coins.
28	Play guitar independently	Dog holds the top of guitar or similar string instrument with one paw and performs a stroking move to the strings with another paw making sound. Repeat 3 times
29	Show me letter	Handler shows dog two cards at a time with one letter on each card and ask dog to show card with specific letter. Dog can indicate with paw or nose touch. Handler must be in full sight and maintain neutral expression and look at the dog. Demonstrate correctly with 3 different letters.
30	Play chess	Dog with the handler sit opposite each other round the chess board with chess pieces on. On cue dog picks up or pushes one of the chess pieces and moves it to any other spot on the board. Then handler makes his move, then on cue dog performs another move. Demonstrate with 3 dog moves. Dog needs to be careful and try not knock down other pieces on board.
31	Match the pair	Dog has a selection of different objects in-front (at least 3) and needs to clearly indicate a matching identical pair to the object that the handler is showing (eg a matching glove making together a pair, a matching sock making together a pair, a matching identical ball) etc. Demonstrate with 3 objects.
32	Open 3 different latches	On cue dog opens using nose, mouth and paws three different latches that are safe and suitable for dogs. Some examples: barrel bolt, sash lock, hook latch etc. The latch can be attached to a real door, on a practice latches board or on a toy
33	Stack 5 rings tower	On cue dog stacks the tower of 5 rings with the largest at the bottom and the smallest at the top. Rings can be laid out for the dog in the right sequence. Handler can encourage and praise but can't point at the next ring to stack and can't touch the dog or the tower base at any point. Rings have to be different sizes. Only correctly stacked tower of rings counts.
34	Swipe up the phone feed	Dog performs sustained nose touch of the phone screen (which can be either on a tripod or held by the handler). While maintaining the nose contact with the screen the dog moves the nose from the bottom part to the top part of the phone screen as if swiping up the phone feed. Alternatively the dog can nose touch to swipe the pages on electronic reader.
35	Press a button on a phone or iPad (or similar screen)	On cue dog presses nose to the image of a button on phone or iPad (or similar device) touch screen - activating the button action. Repeat twice.
36	Big or small	On cue dog selects either big or small as indicated by the handler from two objects of the same type that differ from each other primarily in size. Repeat with two different sets of objects as one continuous video sequence.
37	Hopscotch	Dog performs hopscotch jumps on hopscotch mat accurately landing into the squares and alternating one and two front paws landings
38	Hockey	Dog holds hockey stick in its mouth and by swinging it delivers a ball or a hockey puck into a net or a gap between objects set up as the "goal"
39	Long distance work	The handler needs to send a dog to a mark or a raised platform at least 20m away (it does not have to be precise but an approximate distance of that size). Dog needs to stay on that mark and perform 5 behaviours to handler's cue

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40	Handler face away tricks	Dog performs 7 different tricks with handler facing away from the dog or out of dog's sight. The behaviours can be from any category and at any level
41	Stack stacking cubes	On cue dog stacks at least 3 stacking cubes or boxes on the top of each other making a tall pyramid with the larger box being at the bottom and smallest on the top
42	Move the stacked rings	On cue the dog takes off rings from one ring stacker and puts them onto another one. The sequence of rings does not matter. Dog needs to take off and re-stack at least 3 rings
43	Take off the pegs	On cue dog takes off one by one pegs holding the clothes on a washing line and puts them into a box. The washing line needs to be on the right height for the dog. Demonstrate with 3 pegs
44	Push the train	On cue dog pushes with its nose a toy train around toy railway (Brio, Duplo are just some of the examples). Dog needs to perform at least two pushes with the train remaining on the line
45	Connect 4	On cue dog independently without handler's help puts 3 counters into Connect 4