

POLITE OFFICE DOG SELF-ASSESSMENT

Not sure if your dog is ready to spend the day at the office?

The Polite Office Dog self-assessment enables you to see how your dog responds to common scenarios that occur in an office environment. This self-assessment may be done at home or at a [Company X] office where pets are permitted. This assessment is optional, but highly recommended.

We recommend that this test is administered with the help of another person and pet.

If your dog shows a number of the unacceptable behaviors listed, we encourage you to consider additional training with your dog prior to bringing your dog to the office

If at any point during this assessment your dog shows signs of stress, fear, or aggression, the assessment should stop and appropriate steps should be taken to ensure both your dog and others are safe from harm.

Regardless of assessment results, all pets in the workplace must follow the [\[Company X Pets at Work Policy\]](#).

Accepting a Friendly Stranger (requires a friend or coworker)

This test assesses whether your dog will allow a friendly stranger to approach and speak to you without showing signs of aggression or fear.

Directions: With your dog on leash, stand in a hallway or common area and ask your dog to sit. Have a coworker approach you, shake hands with your coworker and say a few words without touching or acknowledging your dog.

Acceptable Behavioral Response from Dog

- Calm curiosity (sniffing, eye contact)
- Tail wagging
- Remains sitting/stands and remains calm
- Whining

Unfavorable Behavioral Response from Dog

- Barking
- Extreme excitability (e.g. getting up from the sit, pulling on the leash trying to jump on the coworker)
- Signs of fear (ears down, cowering)
- Signs of aggression (growling)

Allowing Strangers to Enter an Occupied Workspace (requires a friend or coworker)

This test assesses whether your dog will be territorial in your workspace.

Directions: With your dog properly secured in your workspace, pretend to work. Have a coworker knock on your office door or cubicle opening, enter, and say a few words to you.

Acceptable Behavioral Response from Dog

- Remains calm and relaxed
- Walks up to greet/sniff the coworker

Unfavorable Behavioral Response from Dog

- Growling at guest who enters

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Sitting Politely for Petting (requires a friend or coworker)

This test assesses whether your dog will allow a friendly stranger to touch him/her while he/she is out with you.

Directions: With your dog sitting or standing at your side, have a coworker approach, greet you and ask if they can pet your dog. The coworker should pet your dog on his/her chest and body.

Acceptable Behavioral Response from Dog

- Calm curiosity (sniffing, eye contact)
- Tail wagging
- Remains sitting/standing
- Licking
- Whining

Unfavorable Behavioral Response from Dog

- Barking
- Extreme excitability (e.g. jumping up on coworker)
- Signs of fear (ears down, cowering)
- Signs of aggression (growling)

Walking on a Loose Leash (can be done alone)

This test assesses your teamwork with your dog when he/she is leashed.

Directions: With your dog leashed and next to you, walk forward. While walking, turn left, then right, and in a full circle. Stop, wait for a minute, and start walking again. Coaxing is allowed.

Acceptable Behavioral Response from Dog

- Your dog walks by your side on a loose leash
- Your dog stops when you stop
- Your dog follows your lead

Unfavorable Behavioral Response from Dog

- Pulling on the leash
- Not paying attention to you

Walking through a Crowd (requires 1-3 friends or coworkers)

This test assesses whether your dog can move about politely in public pedestrian traffic.

Directions: While you walk your dog on leash down a hallway or aisle, have a coworker (or several coworkers) walk in the opposite direction and pass close by you and your dog.

Acceptable Behavioral Response from Dog

- Curiosity of strangers (sniffing in their direction, eye contact)

Unfavorable Behavioral Response from Dog

- Pulling on the leash
- Growling
- Jumping/Lunging at others

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Reaction to Another Dog (requires a friend or coworker and another dog)

This test assesses whether your dog can behave politely around other dogs. Before you begin, it is essential that both pet parents understand how to respond to the dogs should they begin to fight or display aggression (see the Pets At Work policy).

Directions: You and a coworker should each have a dog on leash. Stand about 10 yards from each other. Casually approach each other, stop, shake hands, exchange a few words, and then continue walking.

Note: If either dog reacts with fear or aggression, immediately back away coaxing your dog with you. If the dogs begin to fight, follow the instructions in the "Breaking Up A Dog Fight" section of the Pets At Work policy.

Acceptable Behavioral Response from Dog

- Sniffing at other dog

Unfavorable Behavioral Response from Dog

- Fear (cowering, laying down in submissive pose)
- Aggression (hackles raised, growling, ears back, nipping or biting at other dog)

Reaction to Distractions (requires a friend or coworker)

This test assesses whether your dog will be calm and confident when faced with common distracting situations.

Directions: With your dog on leash or in your cubicle properly contained, have a coworker jog by, drop a book nearby, or make a loud noise.

Acceptable Behavioral Response from Dog

- Startle, look in the direction
- Trying to move away
- Barking

Unfavorable Behavioral Response from Dog

- Not composing herself and not settling back down within a reasonable time