

Behavior Test Results Explained

Maricopa County Animal Care and Control

KENNEL TEST

For kennel presentation and pull

- **Level 1 (Easy):** dog is calm, quiet in kennel, or settles quickly on approach; allows handler to open kennel and place leash without issue; walks out of kennel without issue.
- **Level 2 (Moderate):** dog is barking and/or jumping in kennel; pushes at gate to get out; ducks head/hides from leash/handler; will not easily walk out once leashed, but does exit the kennel; on return, may need coaxing to enter or attempt to quickly exit after being unleashed.
- **Level 3 (Difficult):** dog is barking or jumping, pushes at gate to get out; ducks head/hides from leash/handler; will not walk out once leashed; snaps/growls while being leashed; on return, may refuse or be reluctant to enter or may attempt to quickly exit kennel after being unleashed.

LEASH TEST

For leash skills or tolerance

- **Level 1 (Easy):** dog allows leashing without avoidance; walks in and out of wing/building calmly and/or easily.
- **Level 2 (Moderate):** dog pulls on leash but is controllable/manageable without special skills or techniques; may be reactive including fence fighting, but can be refocused easily; jumps on handler or attempts to mouth/chew at leash, but can be refocused; may start and stop on leash; may exhibit difficulty leaving the building, but walks after exiting the building.
- **Level 3 (Difficult):** dog pulls hard on leash; fence fights when leaving kennel; jumps on handler or attempts to mouth/chew leash repeatedly; stop and go on leash; may not walk on leash at all and needs alternative method of movement like a cart or crate, or in some instances has to be carried.

HANDLING TEST

For touch or people sensitivity

- **Level 1 (Easy):** dog allows easy collar placement; is affiliative and/or calm, and has a neutral body.
- **Level 2 (Moderate):** dog may flinch or be wary, but allows collar placement; may be jumpy or aroused and collar placement may be more difficult; is affiliative and allows handler to approach or approached handler after coaxing or luring.
- **Level 3 (Difficult):** dog may head flip, lip curl, growl, exhibit piloerection; skin may “crawl”; dog may or may not approach; may stiffen with handling and collar placement.

Note: The Level 4 (Staff Only) classification for each test type is reserved for dogs that require specific handling techniques or skills handling; handling is restricted to behavior staff only.