



Date: August 28, 2019

To: All AKC Obedience Judges, Rally Judges and CGC Evaluators

From: Dr. Mary Burch, Director of the AKC Family Dog Program

Subject: **AKC Temperament Evaluators**

The AKC is pleased to announce the new AKC Temperament Test (ATT). The ATT is open to all breeds and mixed breed dogs.

About the AKC Temperament Test (ATT)

The temperament of any dog is an important characteristic. Temperament is a dog's natural predisposition to react a certain way to a stimulus. The AKC Temperament Test includes test items in the following six categories: social, auditory, visual, tactile (touch), proprioceptive (motion), and an unexpected stimulus. Under each of the six categories, there are four choices of test items. On every test, dogs will be tested on three of the four choices.

The ATT, a noncompetitive, pass-fail test, will screen for fear, shyness, inability to recover, and lack of cooperation. Desired traits are that the dog will be emotionally stable, inquisitive, appropriately social for its breed, biddable and recovers from a startling situation in a reasonable amount of time.

Earning the ATT title

Dogs must be at least 1-year old to take the ATT test and dogs who do not pass the test may retest when ready. Dogs who pass the ATT twice under two different evaluators may earn the ATT title and list the suffix, "ATT" after the dog's name.

Holding the ATT Test

ATT tests can be held by any AKC licensed or member club in conjunction with AKC events such as dog shows, trials, or it can be a stand-alone test. Clubs must apply to hold the test and it will appear on the AKC Event Search website. Clubs may start applying on October 1 for events to be held on or after November 1.

Who can do testing?

The evaluators for the ATT will be specially trained AKC Obedience judges, Rally judges and AKC Approved Canine Good Evaluators. The ATT Evaluators will complete four educational modules and will take an online test through AKC's Canine College.

The modules include: 1) an Overview of Temperament and the ATT, 2) watching a video of the ATT in action, 3) reading the ATT Evaluator Guide, and 4) Assembling Your ATT Test Materials.

Becoming an ATT Evaluator

Qualified individuals interested in becoming an ATT Evaluator can apply starting September 3rd. Complete information about the ATT including Evaluator information, resources and the application form can be found at www.akc.org/akctemptest. Questions can be emailed to akctemptest@akc.org. ATT evaluators will appear on the AKC Judges Directory website.

Between September 3, 2019, and December 31, 2019, there will be no cost for AKC Obedience judges, Rally judges or CGC Evaluators to become approved as ATT Evaluators. Beginning on January 1, 2020, there will be a fee for taking the online test.