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**INITIAL FOSTER EVALUATION**

**\*Adapted from Guide Dogs for the Blind Dog Raising Goal Behaviors and Final Skills.**

Medical alert dogs work in all types of environments 24-hours a day. This type of work constantly presents demanding and stimulating situations. Medical alert dogs are given daily care by diabetic partners and must be easy to handle and care for. A medical alert dog needs to have developed skills that support its intended future work and life as companion to a diabetic handler. Our foster care providers help to enhance the socialization and training the dog has developed while in training with CCI or GDB. The foster care provider has the task of evaluating and developing the dog’s skills and behavior so that they are prepared to succeed with a Dogs4Diabetics client.

**TRAINED BEHAVIOR AND CUED RESPONSES**

It is important for the D4D dog to respond to cued behaviors in a variety of environments and situations. Dogs need to be prepared in their ability to perform basic management behaviors, for a diabetic partner, in a variety of circumstances. It is desirable that goal behaviors can be performed in real-world situations.

**Audible Marker Response - “Nice” (marks desired behavior)**

**Ideal** – Dog immediately reacts to hearing the verbal marker “Nice” with animated anticipation of food reward. While showing excitement, the dog is able to maintain its current location (at the time of the mark) expecting direct food reward delivery from the handler.

**Acceptable** - Dog immediately reacts to hearing the verbal marker “Nice” with animated anticipation of food reward. Some movement towards the food reward delivery may be present yet the dog remains mannerly during the delivery.

**Less Desirable** – Dog does not react upon hearing the verbal marker “Nice” (no obvious change in demeanor) or becomes assertive towards getting to the food reward (e.g. moving to the food reward supply, paws on handler).

**Comments:**

**Food Reward Acceptance**

**Ideal** – Dog demonstrates eagerness over dry kibble food reward (their regular diet) while maintaining a gentle manner of taking food from the hand. Handler feels no discomfort when delivering food reward directly to the dog’s mouth (even when closing their eyes).

**Acceptable** - Dog demonstrates enjoyment over dry kibble food reward (their regular diet). Dog may require a specific method of delivery for handler comfort (e.g. cupped hand delivery) but presents no discomfort to handler during hand delivery.

**Less Desirable** – Dog shows little enjoyment over dry kibble food reward and requires higher value food rewards to spark enthusiasm. Dog is rough in its manner of taking food reward from the hand, causing handler discomfort.

**Comments:**

**Enjoyment (Valued) Secondary Reinforcement**

**Ideal** – Dog demonstrates enjoyment of and the desire to receive affection via verbal praise and physical touch. Physical and verbal rewards are clearly rewarding to the dog, acting as effective reinforcement for desired behavior.

**Acceptable** - Dog demonstrates enjoyment of and acceptance of affection via verbal praise and physical touch. Physical and verbal rewards are pleasing to the dog, helping to maintain established desired behaviors.

**Less Desirable** – Dog shows little emotional change during verbal and/or physical affection from the handler. Undesirable responses to verbal and/or physical praise include: low interest in relating to handler, indifference towards affection, and avoidance of physical touch.

**Comments:**

**Environmental Food and Debris Avoidance**

**Ideal** – Dog seeks food reward via handler delivery only. Dog will by-pass available food or debris in the environment, confidently choosing to disregard accessible oral temptations. This includes disregarding food rewards dropped by the handler.

**Acceptable** – Dog regularly demonstrates the ability to by-pass available food or debris in the environment, confidently choosing to leave accessible oral temptations alone. Dog may require occasionally handling to prevent transgressions in more tempting circumstances. Dog is able to disregard food rewards dropped by the handler.

**Less Desirable** – Dog does not demonstrate the ability to frequently by-pass available food or debris in the environment, frequently or obsessively picking up/eating environmental food or debris. Dog acts impulsively on opportunities to take food or debris in the environment.

**Comments:**

**“Sit” /”Stand”/”Down”**

**Ideal** – The dog performs behaviors of Sit, Stand, and Down upon the verbal cues, while remaining in place.

**Acceptable** – With lack of response to the verbal cue, the dog performs the behavior upon a minimal leash cue while remaining in place. May have minor movement out of position when performing the behavior.

**Less Desirable** - Dog shows partial or no response to verbal and leash cues. Undesirable responses include not remaining in place or changing to another behavior immediately after responding to the cue.

**Comments:**

**“Stay”**

**Ideal** – Upon the verbal cue “Stay”, the dog will maintain in Sit or Down for 1 minute regardless of distraction until released by the handler.

**Acceptable** –Dog requires reminder cues to remain in place. Dog may move slightly out of position but maintains their body on the basic space they were left.

**Less Desirable** - Dog does not maintain behavior without excessive handler input.

**Comments:**

**“Wait”**

Used for brief stationary behavior that will soon be released via another cue (e.g. “Come” or “Okay”). Used for safety and control in everyday situations (e.g. entering or exiting vehicles, going through doorways, commencing eating meals, exiting crate).

**Ideal** – Upon the verbal cue “Wait”, the dog will hold its current location (regardless of being in Stand, Sit, or Down position) until given a release cue.

**Acceptable** – The dog requires reminder cues to remain on the spot left in a “Wait”.

**Less Desirable** - Dog does not maintain behavior without excessive handler input.

**Comments:**

**“Come” (Off Leash Recall in Enclosed Areas Only)**

**Ideal** – Upon the verbal cue “Come”, the off leash dog immediately comes to the front of the handler regardless of distance or distractions. Upon arrival the dog places itself very close to and/or gently touching handler’s legs, allowing handler to easily reach for and take hold of collar.

**Acceptable** – While wearing a long line, upon the verbal cue “Come”, the dog immediately comes to the front of the handler regardless of distractions. Upon arrival the dog places itself very close to and/or gently touching handler’s legs, allowing handler to easily take hold of collar.

**Less Desirable** – Dog lacks consistent response to the verbal cue “Come” with or without leash or long line. Additional undesirable behaviors: avoidance of hands reaching for collar (keep away behavior); upon arrival immediate attempts to leave the handler; upon arrival to handler excessive movement making it difficult to touch the collar.

**Comments:**

**“Let’s Go” / Leash Walking Behavior**

**Ideal** – Upon the verbal cue, dog walks willingly with handler on a slack leash on martingale collar equipment. Dog understands how to move in the direction of collar cues from handler. The dog observes the environment while in motion and its position next to the handler’s left leg may range between the area of the dog’s nose and shoulder. Dog is relaxed, notices the environment when moving, and remains aware of handler cues.

**Acceptable** – Upon the verbal cue, dog walks willingly with handler and understands how to move in the direction of collar cues from handler. Position may be slightly forward or backward of ideal and/or dog may create minor tension on leash. Dog may display some interest in environment but responds well to handler cues. Dog may require alternative equipment for ideal leash walking behavior (e.g. headcollar).

**Less Desirable** – Dog has little response to verbal cue. Dog pulls firmly forward or lags behind the handler. Dog creates notable tension on leash and lacks response to handler cues. Dog requires alternative equipment for controlled leash walking behavior (e.g. headcollar).

**Comments:**

**“Okay” (cue that releases the dog from a previously cued behavior)**

**Ideal** - Upon the verbal cue, dog is allowed to end a current behavior it was cued to perform (commonly a “wait”). Response to “okay” is a composed yet cheerful interaction with handler.

**Acceptable** – Dog demonstrates energetic movement upon the verbal cue “okay” but remains manageable and responsive. Response to “okay” may be an interaction with dogs, people, or environment.

**Less Desirable** – Dog does not respond to “okay” cue to end its current behavior, due to uncertainty. Upon cue, dog engages in undesirable behaviors (e.g. jumping up, mouthing, lunging, leaving)

**Comments:**

**“Kennel” – Crate Behavior**

**Ideal** – Dog responds to verbal cue by promptly entering a confined space (e.g. dog crate, vehicle, kennel run). Once in space the dog displays calm, quiet, and non-destructive behavior. Dog does not require toys or food rewards to maintain desired behavior even in novel environments.

**Acceptable** – Dog responds to verbal cue but may require repeated cues to enter the confined space. Dog remains relaxed but may occasionally whine or need toys to maintain calm behavior. Is comfortable in any location although might take five minutes or less to relax in a novel environment.

**Less Desirable** - Dog does not respond to verbal cue and requires luring or physical manipulation to enter confined space. Dog does not relax or become inactive. Undesirable behaviors include: vocalizing, increased panting, frequent turning around/ activity, noticeable change in behavior when in unfamiliar areas (i.e. ideal at home but undesirable behaviors at meetings).

**Comments:**

**“That’s Enough” (cue to stop allowable behavior)**

**Ideal** – Dog will immediately stop a current activity upon the verbal cue. Includes but is not limited to playing tug-of-war, interacting with a toy, and energetic running in an enclosed area.

**Acceptable** – Dog will lessen or gradually cease activity upon the verbal cue. May require repetition or additional guidance from handler.

**Less Desirable** – Dog does not respond to verbal cue or repetitions of cue. Handler has to physically intervene to stop dogs’ behavior.

**Comments:**

**LIFE MANAGEMENT SKILLS / HOUSE MANNERS**

**Public Settling Behavior (community environments - on leash)**

**Ideal** –Dog remains in relaxed down position with minimal shifting, non-vocal, will often sleep after a reasonable amount of time, and does not require equipment or toys to remain stable. Is easily cued to get up and move or reposition. Able to settle with an unfamiliar handler and in novel environments.

**Acceptable** – Dog remains in one place (lying down, sitting or standing) with minimal input from handler. May occasionally whine but ceases with minor handler input, may sporadically need a toy to remain stable. Is easily cued to get up and move or reposition. Ideal settling behavior might be dependent on familiarity to handler and environments.

**Less Desirable** – Dog changes position and gets up frequently with temporary response to handler direction. Undesirable behaviors include: moving about, creeping along floor looking for food or other distractions, vocalization, solicitation towards handler or others, resists handler cues to move.

**Comments:**

**Home Settling Behavior (home environment - off leash)**

**Ideal** – Dog lies down after more 5 minutes of exploring a familiar and calm environment, may remain awake but has minimal reaction to regular household activity, may follow handler from room to room. Does not require toys to stay occupied

**Acceptable**- After brief roaming in familiar and calm environment, dog lies down, often sleeping, and remains inactive during regular household activities. May prefer to regularly interact with toys

**Less Desirable** - Dog constantly explores and moves about a familiar and calm environment. Undesirable behaviors include: pursues attention from others, vocalizes, seeks human items to chew, looks for garbage or food, toys are required to prevent destructive behavior.

**Comments:**

**Tether Behavior (fixed objects and ground tether)**

**Ideal** – Dog accepts tethering in a variety of locations, remaining at the tether in a relaxed position. The dog is quiet, inactive with occasional shifts for comfort, does not require toys to stay occupied.

**Acceptable** – Dog accepts tethering in a variety of locations, remaining at the tether. The dog remains relaxed but may occasionally shift positions, whine or need toys to maintain calm behavior. Comfortable in any location although might take five minutes or less to relax in a novel environment.

**Less Desirable** – Dog does not relax and remains active. Undesirable behaviors include: pulling on the tether, chewing at the tether, barks or whines, increased panting, frequent movement, destruction to environment, noticeable behavior change in unfamiliar areas (i.e. ideal at home but undesirable behaviors at meetings).

**Comments:**

**Vehicle Riding**

**Ideal** – Dog promptly and willingly enters any type of vehicle or crate inside the vehicle. Dog is relaxed and well-mannered riding on the vehicle’s floor (loose or leashed) and crated in multiple types of vehicles. Dog waits for cue to enter or exit vehicles and does so in a calm manner.

**Acceptable** – Dog requires encouragement to enter or exit vehicles. Dog may take a minute to settle in the vehicle or whine occasionally. May need reminder “wait” cues when entering/exiting vehicles.

**Less Desirable** – Dog avoids entering vehicle and requires physical aid from handler. While riding in vehicles, dog demonstrates undesirable behaviors either from fear or excitement (e.g. carsickness, panting, drooling, vocalizing, pacing, jumping on seats, destructive, bolting into and/or out of vehicles).

**Comments:**

**Off Leash Household Demeanor**

**Ideal** – While free in house, dog keeps all feet on the floor, remains settled, non-vocal, and relaxed. Dog may occasionally wander around but settles again quickly.

**Acceptable** – On infrequent occasions dog shows higher energy in the house but responds to handler direction and settle quickly. May tend to be active but does not demonstrate undesirable behaviors.

**Less Desirable** –Dog is very active in the house and rarely settles. In addition to high activity level, undesirable behaviors may be present (e.g. running, jumps on people or furniture, seeks food or garbage, rough play with other pets, oral behaviors on people, destructive to household items). Or a dog that sleeps all the time or shows little to no interest in the handler.

**Comments:**

**In Home Play Behavior**

**Ideal** – Dog only picks up, mouths or chews on intended dog toys, parades/presents toys to raiser, plays non-vocally (except for tug of war). Will play and interact with family members in a gentle manner.

**Acceptable** – On rare occasions a dog picks up but does not destroy household items. Will play and interact with family members in a gentle manner.

**Less Desirable** – Destructive chewing of household items, scavenging, stealing /routinely carrying around household items, counter/table surfing, garbage raiding, barks when playing, attention-seeking, keep-away behaviors when handler tries to touch dog.

**Comments:**

**Unsupervised Behavior at Home**

**Ideal** – Dog keeps all four feet on the floor, ignores household items and is non-vocal for at least 30 minutes unsupervised loose in the whole home.

**Acceptable** – Dog keeps all four feet on the floor, ignores household items and is non-vocal for at least 30 minutes unsupervised loose in one room in which temptations are removed.

**Less Desirable** – Dog is not able to be left home alone due to undesirable behaviors (e.g. destructive, vocalizing, relieving, anxious).

**Comments:**

**Resource Sharing**

**Ideal** – Dog happily shares toys and other valued objects with humans and other pets. Dog is relaxed when people or pets are near his/her food dish at meal time.

**Acceptable** – Dog disengages from other pets over toys or other valued resources. May demonstrate minor apprehension over resources in the presence of other pets and/or people (e.g. eating food faster, removing a toy from the area).

**Less Desirable** – Dog demonstrates resource guarding behaviors (e.g. defends or guards objects or people, growls, hackles or shows other defensive/aggressive behavior towards people or pets around food or other resources).

**Comments:**

**Home Greeting Behaviors**

**Ideal** – Dog maintains location until given the release to greet. Upon release, greets with reasonable energy while keeping four feet on the floor. Settles very quickly after greeting.

**Acceptable** – Dog maintains location until given the release to greet. Upon release, greets enthusiastically while keeping four feet on the flour. May remain animated after greeting but will settle via handler direction.

**Less Desirable** – Upon seeing desired target, dog actively moves towards it, soliciting attention. Additional undesirable behaviors: vocalizing, paws on person, body slam into person. Continues solicitation behavior after initial greeting.

**Comments:**

**Relieving – “Do Your Business” (Adult dog - 5 to 7 relieving opportunities per day)**

**Ideal** – Dog readily leash relieves on cement and other surfaces when offered regularly scheduled opportunities. Dog is comfortable with handler physically close during relieving. Dog does not relieve in the house, demonstrating self-control over urinating or defecating (waits for offered relieving). Although waiting for offered relieving is ideal, indicating a necessity to relieve is desirable. Dog is able to walk at a purposeful pace for 3 miles without relieving. Dog defecates 3 times a day.

**Acceptable** – Dog leash relieves on cement and other surfaces but may need extra time to complete the process. When in the house, dog indicates a need to relieve in a recognizable manner (e.g. standing at door or minor vocalizing). Dog is able to walk at a purposeful pace for 3 miles without relieving.

**Less Desirable** – Dog favors specific surfaces and/or requires additional procedures to prevent relieving accidents in the home or on walks. Dog is reluctant to relieve on leash or in new environments. Dog relieves during walks, indiscriminately in the house or requires confinement to prevent relieving accidents. Dog needs to defecate 4+ times a day.

**Comments:**

**HUSBANDRY (Grooming and Care)**

**Grooming / Examination**

**Ideal** - Dog readily allows all body parts to be examined and cleaned, with a variety of grooming tools, while remaining calm and relaxed.

**Acceptable** - Dog accepts all body to be examined and cleaned, with a variety of grooming tools. Dog may move around a bit without making it difficult for the handler to groom.

**Less Desirable** – Dog avoids grooming and/or handling of body. Undesirable behaviors include: pulling away from the handler, ducking head, tucking tail, mouthing hands or equipment during grooming.

**Comments: l**

**Nail Clipping / Ear Cleaning / Eye Cleaning / Teeth Cleaning / Pilling**

**Ideal** – Dog readily allows all body parts to be handled while remaining calm and relaxed. The care process is easily done by a single handler.

**Acceptable** - Dog allows all body parts to be handled. Dog may move around slightly and/or make mild attempts to avoid a procedure but can be cared for by a single handler.

**Less Desirable** – Dog avoids handling of body parts prior to or during the care process. Undesirable behaviors include: active avoidance; pulling away body part; ducking head; tucking tail; mouthing hands or equipment prior to or during the care process.

**Comments:**

**Equipment Acceptance**

**Ideal** - Dog readily and willingly accepts the handler putting any equipment on their body and the wearing of equipment (e.g. collar, headcollar, service dog jacket) for extended periods of time.

**Acceptable** - Dog readily accepts the handler putting any equipment on their body and the wearing of equipment (e.g. collar, headcollar, service dog jacket) for extended periods of time. Dog may demonstrate minor dislike of equipment but tolerates wearing it without evasion (e.g. occasional scratching or rubbing).

**Less Desirable** – Dog avoids having equipment put on and/or demonstrates discomfort while wearing it. Undesirable behaviors include: evading handler applying equipment; attempts to get equipment off; refusal to move with handler when wearing equipment; mouthing or pawing at equipment.

**Comments:**

**ENVIRONMENTAL SKILLS**

It is crucial for a Medical Alert Dog to receive extensive socialization in a variety of real-world environments. Dog must display confidence to move within society and accept all types of encounters common to our culture.

**Distractions (e.g. dogs, people, food)**

**Ideal** – Dog notices and demonstrates confidence over the presence of the distraction without notable emotional change and disregards the distraction quickly. Dog remains aware of handler cues, maintaining its current location, if stationary, or continuing past distraction when in motion.

**Acceptable** – Dog moves slightly towards distraction but is easily redirected verbally to remain with handler or continue on travel path past the distraction. Disregards the distraction after passing or after it has left

**Less Desirable** – Dog spontaneously moves towards distraction demonstrating undesirable behaviors (e.g. pulling on leash, scavenging, jumping up, vocalizing). Dog continues to remain focused towards the distraction after handler input and perhaps even after distraction has left.

**Comments:**

**Greetings – People in Public**

**Ideal** – Dog demonstrates confidence to be near strangers (adults and children). Dog demonstrates minor interest in strangers and maintains location until given the release to greet. Any emotional inclination is to be friendly towards strangers. Upon release, greets with low energy while keeping four feet on the floor. Settles very quickly after greeting.

**Acceptable** – Dog maintains location until given the release to greet. May demonstrate excitement over meeting strangers. Upon release, greets enthusiastically while keeping four feet on the flour. May remain animated after greeting but will settle via handler direction.

**Less Desirable** – Upon seeing person, dog actively moves towards it, soliciting attention or avoids and demonstrates fear behavior. Additional undesirable behaviors are: vocalizing; paws on person; retreating; growling. Dog may continue solicitation or fear behavior after greeting time.

**Comments:**

**Greetings - Dogs in Public**

**Ideal** – Dog shows low interest in strange dogs, remaining in place until given release. Dog keeps four feet on the ground, maintains a loose leash, and responds to handler cues. Upon release, dog demonstrates calm investigative behavior or willingly accepts other dog examining. May show lack of interest without actual avoidance behavior. No vocalizing. Will immediately recall to handler, away from dog.

**Acceptable** – Dog shows some interest while maintaining four feet on the ground. May require some handler cues to maintain position. Upon release may energetically move forward but keeps four feet on the ground and does not demonstrate undesired greeting behaviors (e.g. pushing into, placing head over). May show animation, sniffing or whine. Will recall to handler away from the dog. May show minor apprehension, avoidance, or mild hackles but recovers quickly and demonstrates acceptance over dogs’ close proximity.

**Less Desirable** – Dog spontaneously shows excitement or fear behaviors towards other dogs. Undesirable behaviors include: lunging towards; straining at leash; jumping on; vocalizing; raised hackles; showing teeth; retreating; bolting away; pawing at; pushing body over dog.

**Comments:**

**Traffic**

**Ideal** – Dog shows confident behavior with all varieties of traffic both coming towards and from behind. Confident with traffic passing close to sidewalk and during both daylight and after dark walks.

**Acceptable** – Dog may occasionally startle or demonstrate apprehension for short periods in response to heavy or close traffic, quickly resuming a confident posture and stride.

**Less Desirable** – Dog frequently demonstrates apprehension towards traffic (e.g. avoids approaching, bolts away from, lowers body as vehicles pass).

**Comments:**

**Noise**

**Ideal** – Dog disregards or acknowledges loud, unusual or sudden noises with no negative reaction.

**Acceptable** – Dog may momentarily startle to loud, unusual or sudden noises but immediately recovers and disregards. Dog may become animated upon loud sudden noise but is easily and quickly redirected by handler.

**Less Desirable** – Dog demonstrates fear behaviors in response to real-world noise (e.g. attempts to flee or hides, trembles, pants, paces). Dog becomes aroused and excited by real-world noise.

**Comments:**

**Objects**

**Ideal** – Dog disregards, or notices with little reaction, odd or unusual objects including but not limited to statues, mannequins, fountains, umbrellas, bags, flags, etc.

**Acceptable** – Dog shows curiosity and desire to investigate new objects while remaining easily controlled. Dog promptly dismisses object after investigation. Dog may show minor concern over novel objects but recovers quickly.

**Less Desirable** – Dog shows fear behavior towards real-world objects (e.g. avoidance, attempt to flee, hackles, vocalizations). Dog is unwilling to investigate object or continues to demonstrate fear after several minutes of exploration.

**Comments:**

**Surfaces (i.e. slick floors, variety of stairs, elevators, metal grates, ramps, etc.)**

**Ideal** – Dog readily and confidently walks over or onto a variety of real world surfaces, remaining with handler, matching handler’s speed.

**Acceptable** – Dog shows slight hesitation on some surfaces but does not avoid negotiating the surface.

**Less Desirable** – Dog demonstrates avoidance behaviors on surfaces (e.g. reluctance to negotiate, energetic avoidance, freezes on surface, rushes to get off surface, vocalizes).

**Comments: .**

**People**

**Ideal** – Dog disregards, or notices with little reaction, unusual looking people (e.g. children, firemen, people wearing unusual clothing or costumes, people in wheelchairs, odd gaits, people on crutches, tall, large, intimidating people). Any emotional inclination is sociable.

**Acceptable** – Dog shows initial curiosity with the desire to investigate an unusual person. Dog is easily controlled and immediately relaxes after investigating or interacting with the person. Dog may show mild concern but recovers quickly, disregarding the person as a threat. Most emotional inclinations are sociable

**Less Desirable** – Dog shows fear behaviors (e.g. avoidance, cowering, hackles, vocalizes, bolting away, unable to approach). Dog forcefully pulls handler towards the person and is non-responsive to verbal cues.

**Comments:**

**Animals (other than dogs)**

**Ideal** – Dog disregards or calmly observes other animals. Curiosity towards new animal is brief and of low energy.

**Acceptable** – Dog shows curiosity and/or desire to investigate or mild concern towards animals but is easily redirected via cues for other behaviors. When allowed to meet or investigate new animals, dog quickly abandons interest.

**Less Desirable** – Dog demonstrates prolonged excitement or concern over other animals. Undesirable behaviors include: strong lunging or pulling towards; avoidance; hackles; bolts away from.

**Comments:**

**Odors**

**Ideal** – Dog disregards odors with confidence (e.g. food scents, diesel fumes, barbeque smoke)

**Acceptable** – Dog is easily controlled and redirected via cues. Dog may demonstrate minor concern or curiosity, with a desire to investigate an odor. Upon investigation, dog quickly disregards odor.

**Unacceptable** – Dog demonstrates extreme excitement (moving towards) or fearful behavior (retreating) over odors. Dog is not easily redirected and excitement or fear behaviors over the odor remain for several minutes.

**Comments:**

**SCENT AND DRIVE EVALUTION**

**Scent Evaluation**

1. **Find It Phase 1**

1 – *Least desirable,* little to no focus when finding kibble. Won’t move, unsure, nervous about it. Needs to be walked out to the kibble

2 – Will hesitate, move slowly out to find the kibble. May move more quickly at the end to snatch it. Has to be formally “released” to go get it

3 – *Desirable*, focused on finding the food. Will move out readily when collar is released. Moves at a quick pace to get it.

4 – Intent focus on finding kibble. Tries to pull to get to it before collar is released

5 – *Most desirable,* persistence in finding kibble when collar is released, no release needed

**Comments:**

1. **Find it – Phase 2**

1 – *Least desirable,* doesn’t move. Not wanting to step away from person. No interest in working dependent on handler cues to work. Works visually

2 – Moves out, but unsure. Will look visually for kibble but in general areas, may use nose for a short period of time. Very little to no problem solving behavior. Maximum of 1 min working time. Frustrated easily, can be redirected for short amount of time. Will need assistance to find it.

3 – *Desirable*, looks around visually, searches in general direction of known other finds. Uses nose more readily. Working time of about 2min. of working time. Mid-frustration level. Able to redirect and continue working. Will need some assistance

4 – Looks around visually, goes more quickly into scent search. Searches all the main areas. About 5 min of working time. Low frustration level. Able to redirect and continue working. May need some assistance.

5 – *Most desirable*, searches all areas with nose. High working time, little to no frustration, no assistance needed.

**Comments:**

**Offering Behaviors**

**Least desirable** – Dog is uneducated about offering behaviors and relies on handler input and movement when shaping a behavior. Dog may sit and stare at you, or not repeat offered behaviors. **Acceptable** – Dog needs some handler input to begin sessions but handler is able to wean off their interactions with the dog as the session progresses. Dog will offer a repeated behavior but may have difficulty progressing to the next step in the behavior chain.

**Most desirable** - Dog readily offers multiple behaviors and handler can readily shape basic targeting behaviors in one session.

**Comments:**

**Tug**

Tug game interaction between evaluator and dog

1 – *Least desirable,* does not want to play. Stares at toy, backs away when presented.

2 – approaches toy, unsure or nervous about playing tug. Mouthiness on tug, but won’t keep mouth on it. Wants to carry it off and not interact with person. Will only play for a short amount of time before done

3 – *Desirable*, interested in playing. Will try to tug. Good tug game (no paws involved). Will release readily. Will continue playing for some time.

4 – Interested in playing. Will take it and play, some noise. Some paws on the tug. Will release, but will try to take it again. Wants to play more.

**Comments:**

**Notes from Evaluator:**