



The purpose of this test is to be sure that everyone that is a handler of a Dog Scout has the same high level of training and understanding as well as the ability to spread the missions of DSA in the most positive and productive way. The test is required of everyone who wishes to achieve the title Dog Scout with their dog. Your completion of this test allows a Scoutmaster to verify that you have the knowledge needed to pass the handler portion of the Dog Scout Certification.

There is no time limit for this test, and you may use the materials and references that are recommended on our website, including the [Recommended Reading List](#), when completing it. Please answer all questions as thoroughly as possible. In some cases, there is more than one right answer for a question. You should be able to explain your reasoning for your answers.

Your completed test should be submitted electronically if using the [video evaluation process](#) or printed and given to a Scoutmaster if testing is done in person.

### **PART 1: THE DOG SCOUT MISSION & THE DOG SCOUT WAY**

- 1) What are the missions of Dog Scouts of America?
- 2) How does DSA affect the lives of dogs and their owners, particularly those dogs that would end up in shelters?
- 3) List at least 5 things the handler needs to know to be “the smart end of the leash.”
- 4) Name 5 obvious calming signals that owners can watch for in their dogs.
- 5) List 4 examples of behaviors you can teach a dog that help him learn self-control.
- 6) What do you say to someone that doesn’t use clicker training to convince him or her to change to clicker methods?
- 7) What is the covenant (agreement) owners should have with their dogs to prevent aggression?
- 8) How can the use of punishment make aggression worse?
- 9) In your opinion, what are the three most important behaviors a handler can teach his/her dog? Why do you feel these behaviors are the most important?

### **PART 2: TRAINING TECHNIQUES**

- 1) What causes a dog to do as the handler requests? How do you achieve that?
- 2) How can someone break his or her dog’s cycle of aggression toward other dogs?



- 3) How do owners affect (both positively and negatively) the body language their dogs show? Please give at least 3 examples.
- 4) Explain when and how a verbal cue for a new behavior is added and why this works.
- 5) When teaching a dog a new cue for a known behavior, explain when and how the new cue is added and why? For example, think about a situation where you would teach the dog a new hand signal in place of a known verbal cue for a particular behavior.
- 6) Do people have to show the dog who is boss or be the Alpha? Why or why not?
- 7) Define socialization, give some examples and explain why it's important.
- 8) What is the best way to teach a dog or puppy to give you something they have and want, such as when a puppy steals a food wrapper from the garbage?
- 9) What is a *Gorn*?
- 10) What is *positive punishment* and why does it not work in most cases?
- 11) List at least 4 of the ways we use our language in ways that can be confusing for dogs.
- 12) List at least 4 of the reasons a dog may show very different behavior or reactions in various environments or with different people.

### **PART 3: DOG SCOUT CERTIFICATION BEHAVIORS**

- 1) What types of collars are allowed on the dog when taking the Dog Scout test?
- 2) Why do you always need to have at least two clean up bags with you when you are with your dog?
- 3) For the test you are required to show that you have taught your dog to walk by your side in heel position. Assuming that you do not plan to enter your dog in an obedience competition, why would this behavior be useful?
- 4) During the "friendly with other dogs" portion of the test, if Rover greets your dog in a rude manner and your dog snaps at Rover, is this acceptable behavior from your dog? Why or why not?
- 5) What is the purpose of the "Leave It" exercise?
- 6) List at least 6 possible situations in which the "Leave it" cue can protect the dog from harm.



- 7) Describe how a dog should be taught the “Leave It” cue using DSA approved methods.

**PART 4: SHARING YOUR KNOWLEDGE**

- 1) List 5 situations in which having a well-mannered dog can help show the general public the joys of having such a well-mannered dog.
- 2) In your own words, define *responsible dog owner*.
- 3) Your dog relieves himself in front of a crowd of people. What do you do?
- 4) You see someone training their dog using very harsh methods such as severe leash corrections, yelling, etc. What do you do?
- 5) How do you plan to spread the word about DSA, positive training and the human/canine bond?
- 6) A child is running toward your dog to greet him.
  - a. Assuming your dog loves kids, what do you do?
  - b. What do you do if your dog doesn't like or is afraid of kids?
- 7) What do you say to someone who asks you about Dog Scouts of America?