

Dog Scout Test

Dog Scouts of America
P.O. Box 158
Harrison OH 45030
(513) 505-5071



The test given by Dog Scouts of America (DSA) is unique in the dog world because it tests both the dog *and* the handler's skills and knowledge. Only Scoutmasters certified by DSA can perform the evaluation of those skills and knowledge based on high standards and strict requirements. Only reward based training is allowed. Choke chains, yelling at or jerking on the dog is forbidden and unnecessary.

For the dog's portion of the test, the dog demonstrated he or she can:

- Be safe around people
- Be safe around other dogs
- Perform a "Leave-It" on cue (meaning the **dog will not touch, molest, eat or otherwise disturb something when the parent tells the dog to "leave it."**) This is tested with very tempting food and with another animal the dog wants to investigate. To pass, the dog must respond quickly to the cue while on a loose leash.
- Remain in "Heel" position next to the parent's leg when told to do so. This helps keep the dog from pulling uncontrollably on the leash and acting out of control.
- Sit and lie down when told to do so by the handler.
- Come to the handler when called.
- Stay in place in either a sit or a down when told to do so by the handler even if the handler walks away (up to 20'.)

For the handler's part of the test, the person demonstrated that he or she:

- **Understands how to manage the dog** and his/her environment to keep the dog safe and out of trouble.
- Has mastered the phrase "Please keep your dog back" as a way to keep their dog safe and prevent altercations between dogs that indicate, through body language, they don't want to get along with each other.
- **Has learned proper leash handling skills** to encourage a proper greeting when dogs wish to meet and indicate through body language they may get along.
- Has learned proper leash handling techniques to discourage aggression in their own dog and in other dogs that their dog meets.
- **Understands how to redirect the dog to prevent the need for barking** or to stop it quickly in a humane way.
- Understands how to read their dog's body language including "calming signals" that help a dog communicate to other dogs that they are not a threat.
- Understands how to teach the dog to control himself using "indirect access" exercises and has done so. The more self control the dog has, the less the person has to nag for good behavior.
- **Carries at least two clean-up bags when in public with their dog and is responsible and consistent about picking-up waste or other messes left behind by their dog.**
- **Knows the Dog Scout Laws and agrees to abide by them.**