

#### ADDITIONAL RULES FOR TDI TESTING

1. Dogs must be tested on a plain buckle collar or harness. Training collars, training harnesses, halties, or any other corrective training devices are not permitted during testing or visiting as a TDI-registered Therapy Dog.
2. Handlers under 18 years of age must have a parent/legal guardian present.
3. Retired racing Greyhounds are not required to sit for TDI Testing.
4. TDI® will not test or register any dog that has bitten a human being.
5. TDI® will not test or register dogs which have been trained for basic obedience with a shock collar.
6. TDI® will not test or register dogs with a poor temperament.
7. TDI® will not test dogs under 1 year of age.
8. TDI® will not test dogs without proof of a current rabies vaccination and appropriate state license.
9. TDI® will not test or register Service Dogs.
10. TDI® does not require evaluators to test potential dog/handler teams who behave or present themselves in an unruly or un-professional manner.
11. TDI will not test dogs while in season.
12. TDI® does not permit the use of treats and/or treat bags during testing.
13. TDI® will immediately fail any dog which soils during testing.
14. TDI® will not register potential applicants who have their dogs registered with any type of Therapy Dog-related program, group, or organization other than TDI®.

**Note: Potential applicants are not required to take any Therapy Dog classes which are not sanctioned by TDI.**

#### Therapy Dogs International (TDI) Testing Guidelines

The TDI Test is divided into two phases and has 13 individual tests and additional exercises within each test. The temperament evaluation is not included in this number. The TDI Test is designed to simulate a visit with a therapy dog at a facility. This test reflects realistic situations and should be helpful in evaluating the potential therapy dog.

- |   | <u>Simulating</u>                               |
|---|---|
| • TDI entry table   | Facility check-in desk                          |
| • TDI Evaluator   | Volunteer coordinator                           |
| • Helpers   | Hospital personnel                              |
| • Helper on crutches  | Patient on crutches                             |
| • Helper in a wheelchair  | Patient in a wheelchair                         |
| • Helper with a walker  | Patient with a walker                           |
| • Helper or Evaluator with an object to startle the dog such as dropping a bedpan, etc. | Hospital personnel                              |
| • Helpers mingling in a crowd   | Hospital personnel, other visitors, or patients |
| • Door or outline of a door   | Hospital entrance or exit                       |

#### Phase I

Begins with the testing of all applicants in a group, excluding the part where the dog will be handled by another person out of sight of the handler.

#### Phase II

Dogs will be tested individually.

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
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# Therapy Dogs International (TDI®) TESTING REQUIREMENTS



*Therapy Dogs International (TDI®) is an organization dedicated to the regulation, testing, selection, and registration of qualified dogs and handlers for the purpose of visitations to hospitals, nursing homes, and facilities or any place where Therapy Dogs are needed.*

## **DEMONSTRATING CONFIDENCE AND CONTROL, THE DOG MUST COMPLETE THESE 13 STEPS OF THE TDI TEST.**

Note: At check-in, before beginning Test 1, the owner must present a current rabies certificate and any other state or locally required inoculation certificates and licenses. Prior to being admitted to the evaluation, a brief temperament test will be performed on the dog by the evaluator.

### **Phase I**

The dog must wear either a flat buckle or snap-in collar (non corrective) or a harness (non-corrective), all testing must be on a 6ft leash.\*

#### **TEST 1: TDI ENTRY TABLE (Simulated as a Hospital Reception Desk)**

The dog/handler teams are lined up to be checked in (simulating a visit). The evaluator (“volunteer coordinator”) will go down the line of registrants and greet each new arrival including each dog. At the same time the collars will be checked, as well as nails, ears and grooming and lifting of all 4 paws and tail, which must be lifted if applicable. If the dog has a short cropped tail it should be touched.

#### **TEST 2: CHECK-IN AND OUT OF SIGHT (time: One Minute)**

The handler will be asked to check in. After the check-in has been completed the handler will be escorted by a helper to where the handler is supposed to sit. All dogs will be placed in a down position on the handler’s left side keeping teams at least 8 feet apart. Now the handler will start completing the paperwork. Once all teams have been placed, the helper(s) will ask the handler(s) if they can hold their dogs. Now the handler(s) will leave for “one minute”. The handler(s) can give the “stay” command verbally or by hand signal or both. The helper(s) can talk to and pet the dog(s). The dog(s) can sit, lie down, stand or walk around within the confines of the leash.

#### **TEST 3: GETTING AROUND PEOPLE**

As the dog/handler team walks toward the patients’ rooms, there will be various people standing around. Some of the people will try visiting with the dog. The dog/handler team must demonstrate that the dog can withstand the approach and touching by several people from all sides at the same time and is willing to visit and walk around a group of people.

#### **TEST 4: GROUP SIT/STAY**

The evaluator will ask all the participants to line up with their dogs in a heel position (w/dog on left or right), with 8 ft. between each team. Now the handlers will put their dogs in a sit/stay position. The handlers will give the sit command to the dogs. The evaluator will tell the handlers to leave their

*\*If the dog is on a longer leash, a knot must be made in the leash to mark 6 ft. The handler must drop the extra leash.*

dogs. The handlers will step out to the end of their 6 ft. leash, turn around and face the dog(s) and wait for the evaluator’s command to return to their dog(s). (The evaluator will give the return command immediately).

#### **TEST 5: GROUP DOWN/STAY**

Same as test number 4, except dogs will now be in a down/stay.

#### **TEST 6: RECALL ON A 20 FT. LEASH**

All handlers will be seated. Three dogs at a time will be fitted with a long line. The reason we fit more than one dog with a long line at the same time is to save time. The handler will continue to hold the 6 ft leash while the long line is fitted by a helper. To avoid any kind of incident, the evaluator will make sure that the handler is holding the 6 ft leash until the dog has been placed and is ready to be tested for the recall. One handler at a time will take the dog to a designated area which is out of reach of the other dogs even with a 20 ft. line. The evaluator will then give the command: Down your dog!. The handler can down the dog either by voice and or by hand signal. The evaluator will give the command: Leave your dog!. The handler will tell the dog to stay either by voice and or by hand signal. The handler now will turn away from the dog and walk in a straight line to the end of the 20 ft. lead. The handler will turn and face the dog. The evaluator immediately will tell the handler to call the dog. The handler will call the dog, either by voice, hand signal or both.

#### **TEST 7: VISITING WITH A PATIENT**

The dog should show willingness to visit a person and demonstrate that it can be made readily accessible for petting (i.e. small dogs will be placed on a person’s lap or held; medium dogs will sit on a chair or stand close to the patient to be easily reached, and larger dogs will be standing).

### **Phase II**

#### **TEST 8: TESTING OF REACTIONS TO UNUSUAL SITUATIONS**

The dog handler team will be walking in a straight line. The dog can be on either side, or slightly behind the handler; the leash must not be tight. The evaluator will ask the handler to have the dog sit (the handler may say sit or use a hand signal or both). Next the evaluator will ask the handler to down the dog (the handler may say down or use a hand signal or both). Next continuing walking in a straight line, the handler will be asked to make a right, left and an about turn at the evaluator’s discretion.

The following distractions will be added to the heel on a loose leash.

- a. The team will be passing a person on crutches.
- b. Someone running by calling “excuse me, excuse me” waving hands (this person is running up from behind the dog. It could also be a person on a bicycle, roller blades, or

a skateboard etc).

c. Another person will be walking by and drop something making a loud startling noise (a tin can filled with pebbles or a clipboard). At an indoor test there may be a running vacuum cleaner (realistic in a facility).

- d. Next the team will be requested to make an about turn.
- e. And then a left turn.
- f. Then the team should be requested to make a right turn, going back parallel toward the starting point in a straight line.

#### **TEST 9: LEAVE-IT; PART ONE**

The dog handler/team meets a person in a wheelchair. The dog should approach the person and visit. The person in the wheelchair, after briefly interacting with the dog, will offer the dog a treat by holding the treat steady in the hand while enticing the dog. The handler must instruct the dog to leave it. It is up to the handler as to what kind of verbal command they use to keep the dog from licking or taking the food. The handler should explain to the patient why the dog cannot eat a treat while visiting (i.e. dog has food allergies).

#### **TEST 10: LEAVE-IT; PART TWO**

The dog handler will be walking in a straight line with the dog at heel. There will be a piece of food in the path of the dog. The dog is not allowed to lick or eat the food. There should also be a bowl of water in the path of the dog. The dog is not allowed to drink.

#### **TEST 11: MEETING ANOTHER DOG**

A volunteer with a demo dog will walk past the dog handler/team, turn around and ask the handler a question. After a brief conversation, the two handlers part.

#### **TEST 12: ENTERING THROUGH A DOOR TO VISIT AT THE FACILITY**

A person should be able to go through the entrance ahead of the dog/handler team. The dog handler team is ready to enter through a door to a facility. The handler first has to put the dog in a sit, stand, or down stay, whatever is most comfortable for the dog.

#### **TEST 13: REACTION TO CHILDREN**

The children will be running and yelling, playing ball, dropping objects, and doing what children usually do while playing.

1. The handler will walk with the dog past playing children (distance from the children must be at least 20 feet).
2. a. The dog must lie down beside the handler.
  - b. The handler will simulate reading a book while the dog is lying down.
  - c. The dog MUST have his back to the children.

**Testing requirements are subject to change without notice.**

**Please see additional rules for TDI Testing on back cover.**