

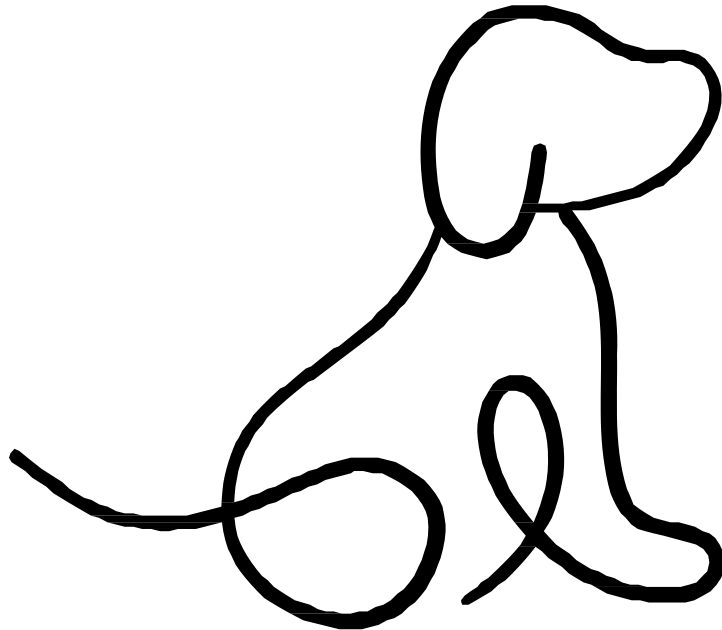
# **BULLI RAY**

# **PUPPY APTITUDE**

# **TEST**

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**SCORING FORM**



**SHARED BY: BULLI RAY**  
**[HTTPS://BULLIRAY.COM](https://bulliray.com)**

# INTRODUCTION

The Bulli Ray Puppy Aptitude Test (PAT) is a structured temperament evaluation designed to help you understand each puppy's natural drives, sensitivities, and social tendencies. This assessment is not about labeling a puppy as “good” or “bad,” but about gaining practical insight into how a puppy may respond to people, environments, sound, touch, and handling. For the most accurate results, testing should be conducted at **7 weeks of age (49 days)**, when neurological development is complete and closely resembles that of an adult dog. Testing outside this window may produce inaccurate results due to learned behavior or prior experiences.

This guide is intended for breeders, evaluators, and families seeking clarity before making a long-term commitment. The **tester must be a complete stranger** to the puppies and their mother, as familiarity will skew results. The evaluator's role is to remain quiet, neutral, and consistent — not to interact or encourage. Brief reassurance may be given if a puppy panics, but if the puppy does not recover quickly and instead urinates or defecates from fear, the test should end and the puppy returned to its litter. In my opinion, this level of stress response may indicate future challenges when handling fear or pressure.

As you complete each section, select only one checkbox per category that best reflects the puppy's behavior. Each puppy should **wear a clearly identifiable ribbon (blue, red, green, or yellow)** to prevent confusion during testing and documentation. Total the scores at the end and review the interpretation guidelines. The goal is not to find the “best” puppy, but the one that best aligns with your home and lifestyle.



# PUPPY

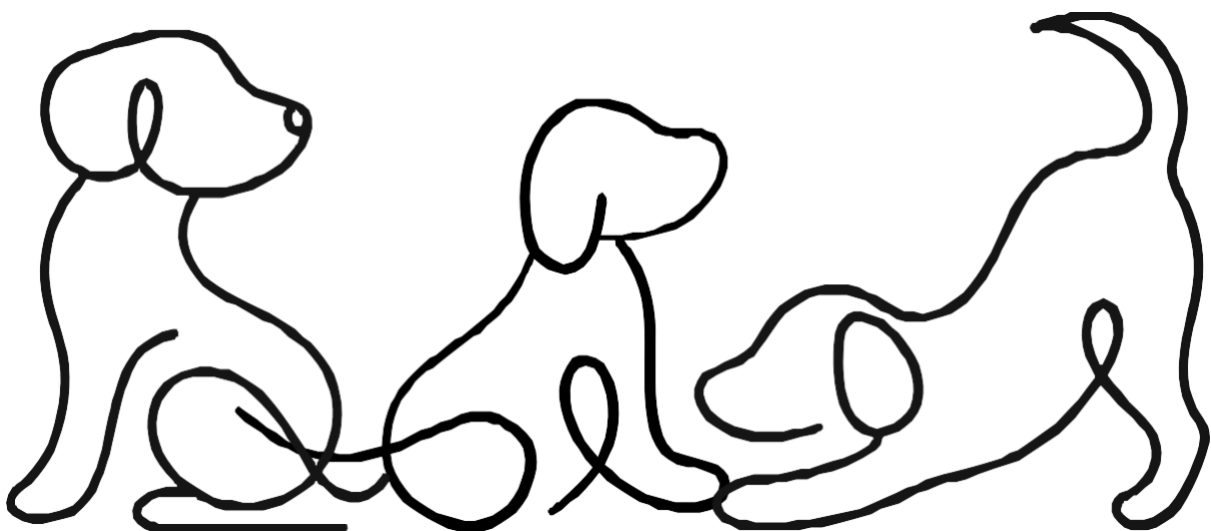
## IDENTIFICATION:

To keep each puppy's test separate and organized, bring several different colored strings or ribbons, or use one ribbon color labeled with a number, to easily identify each puppy during testing. When dealing with purebred litters, many of the puppies look so similar that it's important to make each puppy easily identifiable.

**Color/Number** \_\_\_\_\_ **Puppy**

Instructions:

- For each category, select only one box that best fits the observation by the evaluator.
- Mark the corresponding score (1–6) for each category.
- At the end, fill in the Score Results section.



# #1 SOCIAL ATTRACTION



Put the puppy down in the testing area. For the **following exercise**, walk in a circle around the puppy, no more than 5 feet away. Puppies at this age can see clearly about a distance of 5 feet. Stay close, moving, stay quiet, you don't want to trigger learned behavior by calling the puppy. For the **social attraction** portion of the test. Stop, crouch down and then call the puppy to you.

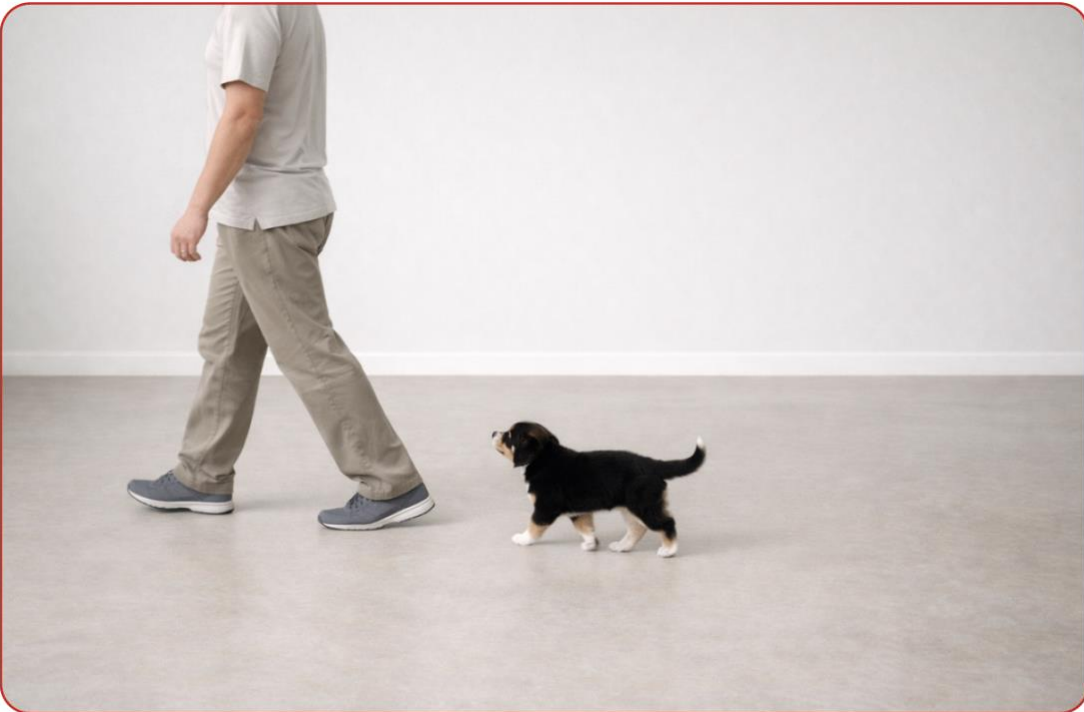
Walk in a circle and observe the puppy's behavior.

- 1. Came readily, tail up, jumped, bit at hands
- 2. Came readily, tail up, pawed, licked at hands
- 3. Came readily, tail up
- 4. Came readily, tail down
- 5. Came hesitantly, tail down
- 6. Didn't come at all



# #2 FOLLOWING

This test assesses the puppy's social drive: how much it seeks human companionship, how confidently it interacts with strangers. This exercise should last approximately 3 minutes.



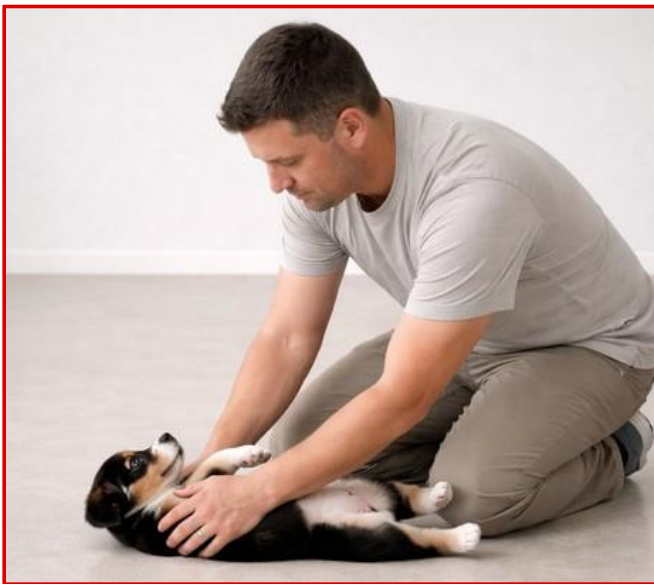
- 1. Followed readily, tail up, got underfoot, bit at feet
- 2. Followed readily, tail up, got underfoot
- 3. Followed readily, tail up
- 4. Followed readily, tail down
- 5. Followed hesitantly, tail down
- 6. Did not follow, went away or find something more interesting



# #3 RESTRAINT

Gently place the puppy on its back and hold it securely for 30 seconds using your right hand. Position your thumb and forefinger on the left side of the neck and shoulder, with the remaining three fingers supporting the right side. The hold should be firm but not forceful. Maintain direct eye contact while leaning over the puppy and observe how long it resists before relaxing. If the puppy does not relax, return it to its litter, as this response may indicate the need for an experienced handler rather than a home with children or older individuals. This exercise should last approximately 1 minute.

- 1. Struggled fiercely, flailed, bit
- 2. Struggled fiercely, flailed
- 3. Settled, struggled, settled with some eye contact
- 4. Struggled, then settled
- 5. No struggle
- 6. No struggle, strained to avoid eye contact



# #4 SOCIAL DOMINANCE



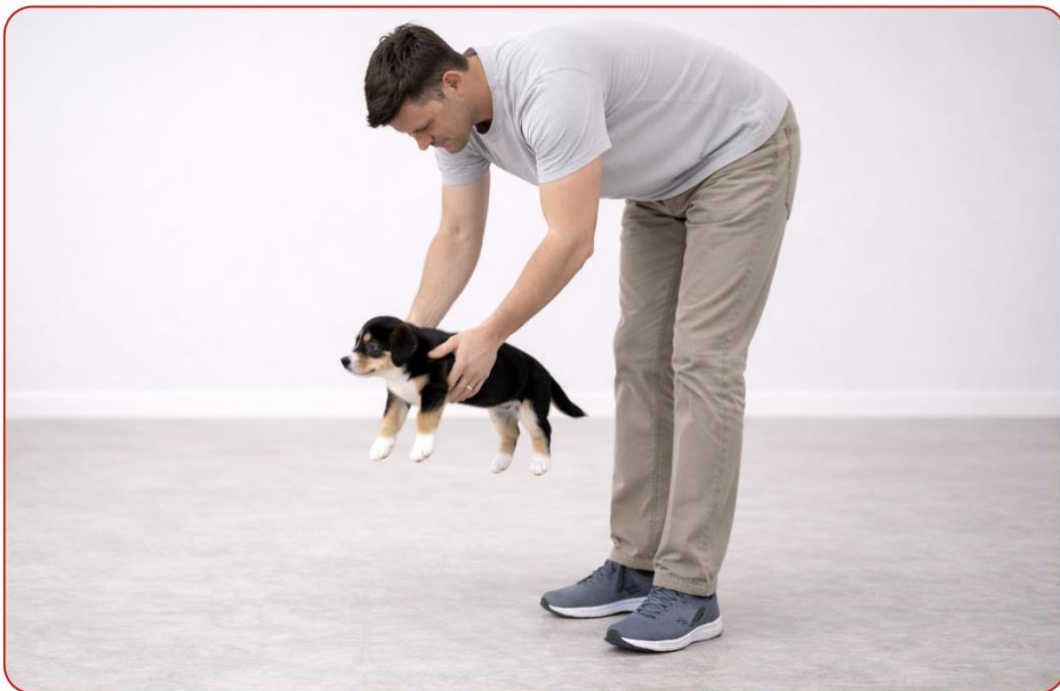
Sit on the ground and allow the puppy to approach and interact with you at its own pace. Keep your hands open and resting on your legs. Avoid petting or encouraging the puppy; instead, calmly observe how it responds to your passive presence. This exercise should last approximately 3 minutes.

- 1. Jumped, pawed, bit, growled
- 2. Jumped, pawed
- 3. Cuddled up to the tester and tried to lick the face
- 4. Squirmed, licked at hands
- 5. Rolled over, licked at hands
- 6. Went away and stayed away



# #5 ELEVATION DOMINANCE

Lift the puppy securely using both hands positioned evenly around its rib cage. Bend slightly forward as you raise the puppy approximately one foot off the ground, ensuring its body remains horizontal and both front and rear legs hang evenly below your hands. Hold the puppy safely suspended for about 30 seconds, maintaining steady support to prevent slipping or imbalance. Observe how much the puppy struggles while elevated. The entire exercise should last around one minute.



- 1. Struggled fiercely, tried to bite
- 2. Struggled fiercely
- 3. Struggled, settled, struggled, settled
- 4. No struggle, relaxed
- 5. No struggle, body stiff
- 6. No struggle, froze



# #6 RETRIEVING

Crumble a piece of newspaper into a ball. Toss it just a few feet ahead. Observe the puppy's reaction. This test reveals two key temperament traits: play and social drive, and whether the puppy has any sight issues when you crumple the newspaper. The entire exercise should last around two minutes.

- 1. Chased the object, picked it up, and ran away
- 2. Chased the object, stood over it, and did not return
- 3. Chased the object, picked it up, and returned with it to the tester
- 4. Chased the object and returned it to the tester
- 5. Started to chase the object, lost interest
- 6. Does not chase the object



# #7 TOUCH SENSITIVITY



Hold the puppy and gently lift its paw. Place your thumb and forefinger on either side of the toe webbing. Apply pressure as follows: 0 for no pressure, 1 for very light pressure, and 2 for a slightly firmer squeeze. Gradually increase the pressure until you reach a count of 10. The entire exercise should take about 30 seconds.

- 1. 8-10 count before response
- 2. 6-8 count before response
- 3. 5-6 count before response
- 4. 3-5 count before response
- 5. 2-3 count before response
- 6. 1-2 count before response

## #8 SOUND SENSITIVITY



Gently place the puppy on the ground and allow it to explore freely. Be patient, as some puppies may take longer to move away. Before testing, practice striking the pot **away from the puppies and mother** to determine in advance how many strikes you will use. Each puppy must be tested under identical conditions, using the same number and strength of strikes to ensure consistency. Once the puppy is distracted, strike the spoon against the inside of the pot the predetermined number of times to create a clear, noticeable sound. Immediately place the spoon in the pot and set both on the ground. The entire exercise should take about one to two minutes.



- 1. Listened, located the sound, and ran toward it barking
- 2. Listened, located the sound, and walked slowly toward it
- 3. Listened, located sound, and showed curiosity
- 4. Listened and located sound
- 5. Cringed, backed off, and hid behind the tester
- 6. Ignored sound and showed no curiosity

## #9 SIGHT SENSITIVITY

Gently place the puppy on the ground and step away, taking three steps in any direction. While walking, pick up a kitchen trash liner, unfold it, and shake air into it as if replacing it in a trash can. Hold the open bag close to the ground so the puppy can investigate if interested. Pause and observe the puppy's reaction. Do not let the puppy tear or chew on the bag, as swallowing plastic can be dangerous.

- 1. Looked, attacked, and bit the object
- 2. Looked at and put feet on the object and put the mouth on it
- 3. Looked with curiosity and attempted to investigate, tail up
- 4. Looked with curiosity, tail down
- 5. Ran away or hid behind the tester
- 6. Hid behind the tester



# #10 STABILITY





Gently place the puppy on the ground and choose a standard-sized umbrella (avoid mini umbrellas). Select an umbrella that opens quickly, whether by button or manually. Prepare the umbrella in advance, practicing the opening mechanism to ensure a smooth process during the test. Avoid fumbling with the umbrella in front of the puppy. As you step back, call the puppy toward you, open the umbrella, and observe its reaction.

- **1.** Looked and ran to the umbrella, mouthing or biting it
- **2.** Looked and walked to the umbrella, smelling it cautiously
- **3.** Looked and went to investigate
- **4.** Sat and looked, but did not move toward the umbrella
- **5.** Showed little or no interest
- **6.** Ran away from the umbrella

# SCORE RESULTS

**Total Score** (sum of selected options 1–6 across all categories:

\_\_\_\_\_ (out of 60)

**Quick Interpretation (optional guidance):**

- Lower scores (e.g., 10–20): Generally lower social drive, more independence or caution.
- Mid-range (e.g., 21–40): Balanced traits; fitness depends on lifestyle, energy and structure.
- Higher scores (e.g., 41–60): Higher social drive and sensitivity; may need structured exposure and consistent handling

**Observations / Notes:**

**Evaluator Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



# SCORE RESULTS

**Testing kit** needs to include:

1. Clipboard, pencil or pen
2. Ribbon to identify each puppy tested.
3. Sheet of newspaper that is 11 x 17 inches (280 x 430 mm) for consistency
4. Metal cooking pot and a metal spoon
5. Kitchen garbage liner
6. Umbrella, regular size and not a compact or mini style

## **Interpreting Results for Your Family Situation**

To successfully interpret these test results, you must reference the book this evaluation was written for: **“Paws with Purpose: Hard-Hitting Guide to Picking the Right Puppy”**. The PAT is a tool for alignment, not a label, and your lifestyle matters just as much as the score. A mismatch between temperament and home environment is what creates long-term problems.

Be honest about your daily routine and availability. A highly social puppy may seem ideal, but if you are frequently away from home, that same dog could develop separation anxiety due to a lack of interaction. In some cases, choosing a more independent temperament is wiser than selecting a “social butterfly” that requires constant companionship and attention.

Dogs with sound or sight sensitivities require careful management and gradual, positive exposure to prevent fear from intensifying over time. Sudden storms, fireworks, loud environments, or unexpected visual changes can lead to trauma or destructive attempts to escape. Homes with frequent absences, young children, or unpredictable activity should carefully consider whether a sensitive puppy is truly the right match, as both sound and sight issues can significantly impact long-term household harmony.

# SCORE RESULTS

- **High social drive + low fear:** These puppies tend to engage easily and recover quickly from new experiences. Good candidates for homes with kids, visitors, and activity if the family provides structure.
- **Lower social drive:** More independent, less needy. Often better in quieter homes without constant handling or chaos.
- **Strong prey drive:** Expect chasing. Not ideal for homes with cats, small animals, or livestock unless you're experienced and committed to management.
- **Med to High touch tolerance:** Easier for grooming, vet care, and handling by children under supervision.
- **Sound or visual sensitivity:** These dogs need gradual exposure to busy environments. Without it, fear can grow.

**YOU'RE MATCHING TRAITS TO LIFESTYLE, NOT FORCING A PERSONALITY INTO YOUR WORLD.**



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