

Canine Drives or Instincts For Survival

Breed Selection: When you choose a particular breed of dog for yourself, you should investigate the background and purpose the breed was developed. Make sure you understand and accept your choice as he is and that the breed is suitable for your lifestyle. For example, do not select a Great Dane if you live in an apartment, nor would a Border Collie be a great choice if your time is scarce and exercise time is limited.

Canine Drives: There are 4 basic behavior drives that all dogs are born with instinctively. That is, their instincts resort back to the wild dogs or wolves running in a pack. In every litter of puppies there is an alpha (dominant) male and an alpha (dominant) female. All other puppies must submit to their leadership or challenge them for the top position. Therefore your dog is either a leader or a submitter. The personality test will help you determine which one your dog is. If you do not challenge and dominate the leader type when he is placed in his new pack (your home) he will indeed take the initiative to run the household, thus making you the servant and him the master. Teaching him to submit to you through mutual respect, love and basic obedience exercises will insure a happy co-existence and reliable companionship for all.

Behavior Drive Explanations

- 1. Prey Drive-** This indicates the dogs hunting instincts or his willingness to search for food. This dog is excited by everything that moves, smells good, or sounds interesting, therefore, a handler of this type of personality must truly have the dog's respect and admiration especially in a distraction situation. This type sometimes seems harder to train but a strong will and lots of patience will help you reach your training goals. These dogs are not at all stupid although usually highly energized.
- 2. Pack Drive-** This indicates the dogs strong willingness to be part of the family unit (or his pack). He is usually laid back and calm, making a lot of eye contact with you. This dog really, really wants to please you and follows you everywhere. Simply show this dog exactly what you want, in a nice way and you will get the results you want. Verbal praise is imperative for this type of dog as this communicates your approval.
- 3. Defence Drive (Fight)-** This dog thinks about self preservation and the protection of his surroundings is very important to him. This strong dominant dog is the more likely to challenge you for pack leadership than any other personality. He may act tough or even aggressive with you but you must win the challenge. Timing the necessary corrections and reading the dog's body language correctly will insure a quick resolve to the dominant notions your dog may have. Once your dog has a clear understanding of who is running the pack, he may never challenge you again.
- 4. Defence Drive (Flight)-** This is a dog that is very shy or fearful in a new situation or environment. This is easily overcome by providing the dog with the proper type of reassurance. The most common error the master makes is to stroke the dog on the head or neck and verbally tell the dog (in a sympathetic voice) that everything is OK. This method only makes a dog more insecure and worried about his master's sad and fearful voice. Instead, make the dog face his fear. Bring him close to it, allowing him to sniff it if it happens to be an object or person. Verbally praise the dog with a very confident voice, (Good Dog), when he is being brave enough to look at the fear or even acknowledge it. Firm shoulder petting or thumping will build the dog's confidence even further. When the dog starts to relax (tail wags or his eyes soften) move him away from the situation and continue to praise in a confident voice. A few positive sessions of building your dog's confidence will soon change his confidence in himself and in you. The dog's trust in you will strengthen and intensify as his fears subside.

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Canine Personality Profile Test

Prey Drive

<u>Does Your Dog:</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
1. Sniff the ground or air alot?	___	___
2. Get excited by moving objects?	___	___
3. Stalk cats, dogs or other objects?	___	___
4. Bark in a high pitched voice when excited?	___	___
5. Pounce on his toys?	___	___
6. Steal food from the counter?	___	___
7. Shake and "KILL" his toys	___	___
8. Rip soft objects apart?	___	___
9. Wolf down his food?	___	___
10. Like to carry things?	___	___
11. Like to dig?	___	___
12. Bury things?	___	___

Pack Drive

<u>Does Your Dog:</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
1. Get along with other dogs?	___	___
2. Get along with people?	___	___
3. Bark when left alone?	___	___
4. Solicit petting or like to snuggle?	___	___
5. Respond to verbal praise?	___	___
6. Like to be groomed?	___	___
7. Make eye contact with you?	___	___
8. Tremble or whine on stays?	___	___
9. Follow you like a shadow?	___	___
10. Play with you or other dogs?	___	___
11. Jump up to greet people?	___	___
12. Show a lot of reproductive behaviors, ie., courting or mounting another dog	___	___

Defence Drive (Fight)

<u>Does Your Dog:</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
1. Investigate strange sounds or objects?	___	___
2. Play tug of war games to win?	___	___
3. Bark or growl in a deep tone?	___	___
4. Guard his territory?	___	___
5. Guard his owner?	___	___
6. Guard his food or toys?	___	___
7. Dislike being petted?	___	___
8. Dislike being groomed?	___	___
9. Bite leash when corrected?	___	___
10. Dominate other dogs?	___	___
11. Like to fight or challenge?	___	___
12. Get picked on by mature dogs?	___	___

Defence Drive (Flight)

<u>Does Your Dog:</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
1. Run from new situations?	___	___
2. Hide behide you when insecure?	___	___
3. Avoids direct distractions?	___	___
4. Run away when told to "Stay"?	___	___
5. Crowd you when Heeling?	___	___
6. Raise his hackles when meeting someone new?	___	___
7. Avoids you when you've called him to you?	___	___
8. Crawl on belly or turn upside down when repremanded?	___	___
9. Tries to escape if being examined?	___	___
10. Urinates when he thinks he's made a mistake?	___	___
11. Urinates during a greeting?	___	___
12. Bite or nip when cornered?	___	___

SUMMARY

- **Prey Drive** Yes ___ No ___
- **Pack Drive** Yes ___ No ___
- **Defence (Fight)** Yes ___ No ___
- **Defence (Flight)** Yes ___ No ___