PADA TEST INFO-PACK
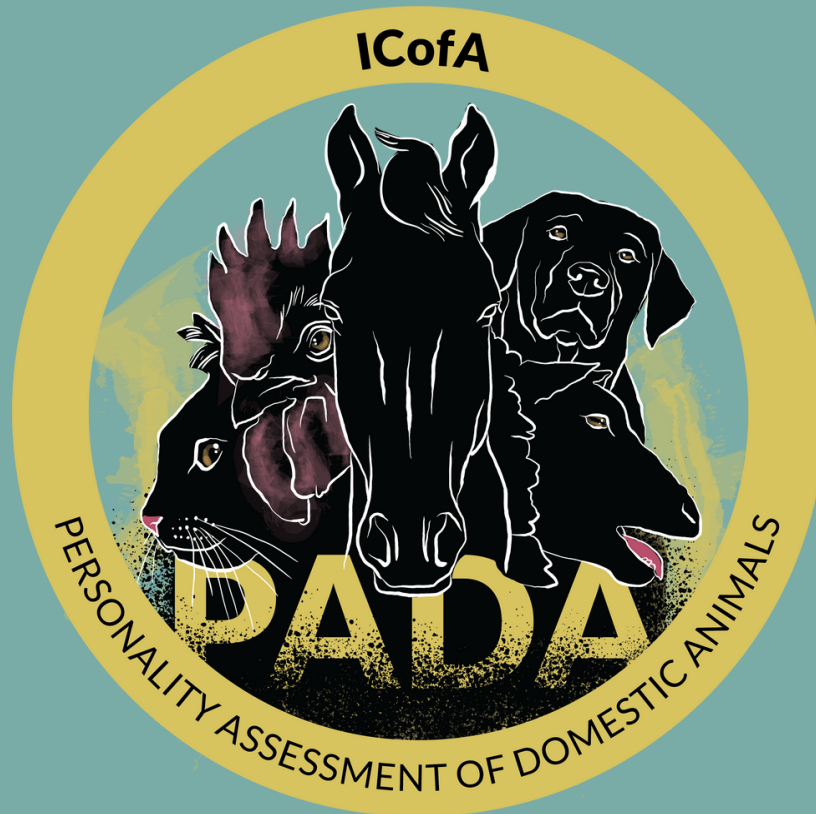

ICofA

PADA

PERSONALITY ASSESSMENT OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS

INTRODUCTION

PADA stands for **P**ersonality **A**ssessment for **D**omesticated **A**nimals. It is a scientifically based personality screening test developed by global experts from the variety of academic backgrounds. The test is aimed at animals working in AAI but can also be used with animals working in other sectors. Additionally, breeders and domestic dog owners can use the test to learn more about the dog in an objective and professional manner.

This info-pack specifically focuses on dogs and the requirements for dogs to undertake a PADA test.

THE TEST IS DESCRIPTIVE

PADA assesses the dog's natural responses to the testing categories. The handler (usually the owner) is present during the majority of the test but does not influence the dog's behavior throughout the test.

Every reaction or behavior that the dog shows is purely the dog's choice and both the environment where the test takes place and the team are unfamiliar with the dog, hence the test's objectivity.

The test is divided into different categories, and each category have thoughtfully chosen and well-reasoned prompts. For example, the test assesses the dog's recovery response time, whether the dog uses its nose to explore, if the dog is curious, and if the dog shows the resource guarding. Therefore, there is no right or wrong behavior: the test assesses different aspects of the dog's personality, and the results describe the dog's behaviors throughout the test.
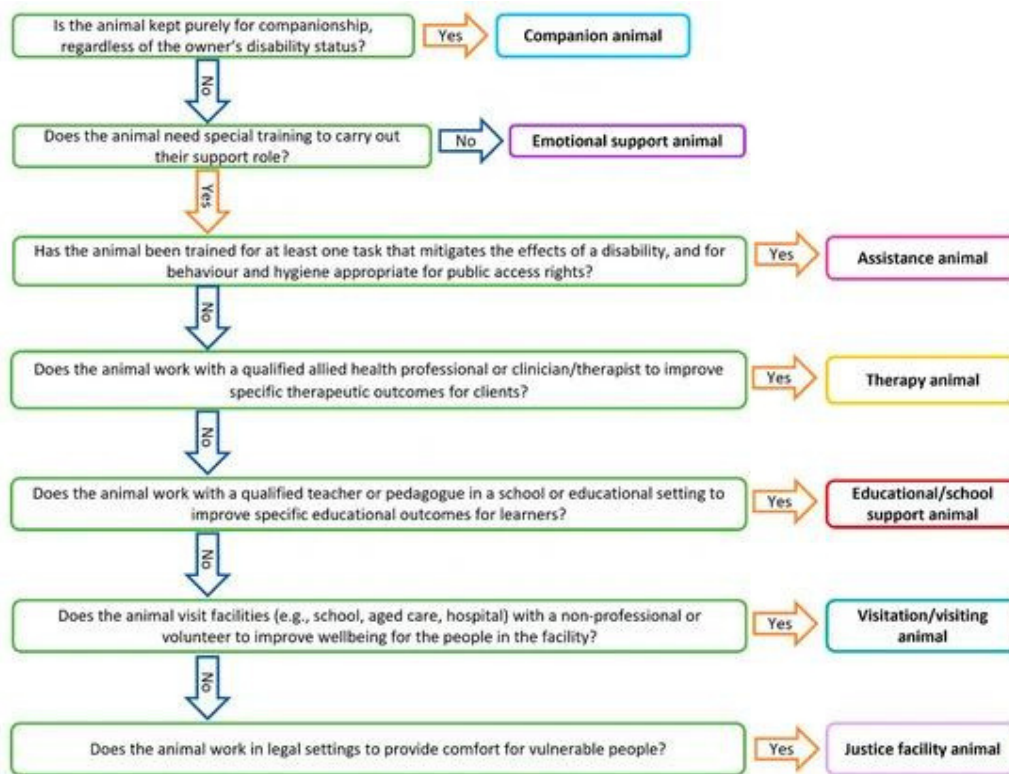
AAI

The focus of this test is to assess if the dog is suitable for being inserted in AAI, and because of that, there are minimum criteria that the dog has to fulfill to be a suitable AAI dog which the PADA test will show. Luckily, AAI is broad and there are several disciplines with different requirements that a dog could be suitable for. The PADA test helps indicating in which AAI discipline the dog would be suitable for and will consider the dog's personality for activities in which it can thrive.

By being an objective test, the PADA test also shows if the dog enjoys being with other persons out of choice, this is a very important feature for dogs that will be inserted in any AAI discipline and it can be surprising to see which choices a dog makes when it has complete freedom to do so.

THE DOG IS NOT FORCED TO DO ANY OF THE TEST ELEMENTS IF IT DOES NOT WANT TO. THE PADA TEAM WILL MAKE SURE THAT THE DOG WILL LEAVE THE PLACE RELAXED.

flowchart showing the relationships between the roles in AAI. Source: *Defining Terms Used for Animals Working in Support Roles for People with Support Needs* at dpi. com

PROFESSIONAL TEAM

The person bringing the dog to the test is referred to as handler. Most often, this person is the dog owner, but it does not have to be.

For every PADA test, four roles must be filled: a PADA technician, a PADA leader, a PADA evaluator, and a camera person. The technician practically undertakes the test with the dog. The PADA leader guides the technician and the handler through each element of the test and is in charge of communication during the test. The PADA evaluator is always with the dog and is responsible for scoring the test using the scoring app (for this reason the evaluator is often seen using an electronic device such as a cellphone or a tablet). The camera person films the dog throughout the entire test.

Every PADA team member is professionally prepared by undertaking at least 856 hours of certified ICofA courses and practical experience. Only after being evaluated and certified as a PADA team member can a member administer the PADA test. Given the multiple roles during a PADA test observation of the dog's behavior is guaranteed and objectivity along with collaborative decision-making prevails. The videos recordings are also helpful to review the test if needed.

INTERNATIONAL CERTIFIED TEAMS

Every organization using the PADA test is equally prepared, regardless of their location. And international collaboration can be established and global participants can share their experiences, making improvements in the test over time. PADA test results are also shared internationally via the digital app.

A PADA certified professional can conduct the test in any country where the test is actively being used. By sharing this cynologic knowledge (canine research) internationally, the PADA teams allow for open learning and innovative professional development. Currently, the PADA teams can be found in the following countries:

Belgium
- Tine Arrets

Czech Republic
- Zuzana Prokopová

Hong Kong
- Eddie Sir (Lee)

Hungary
-Andrea Temesi
-Judit Abdai

Iceland
- Gunnhildur Jacobsdottir

Japan
- Fumi Higaki

Netherlands
- Mandy Van Laar

Norway
-Christine Olsen

Romania
- Alina Rusu

Slovakia
- Martina Contofalská Michalkova

Sweden
- Sara Karlberg

USEFUL KNOWLEDGE
BEFORE TAKING THE TEST

- The dog must be an adult when tested (this varies per breed). For small breeds, adulthood begins around 2 years old; for medium and large breeds adulthood begins around 3 years old.

- The dog must have a health declaration from a veterinarian that was issued within 30 days of the test date.

- The dog should be used to wearing a collar

- The handler will be with the dog throughout the majority of the test except for one of the test elements
- (always considering the dog's disposition)

- Only the evaluator has information about the dog; the team tests the dog with any knowledge of the dog so that the testing procedure remain unbiased.

- There is a charge to take the test

HOW TO APPLY

Contact the organisation responsible for conducting the PADA test in the country you live in or of your choice. The organisation will then send you the conditions for taking part in the test and will ask you to fill out two questionnaires.

After answering the questionnaires and providing the requested information, the PADA team will confirm whether they believe your dog is ready for the test.
If your dog is prepared, you will receive information regarding the date, time, and location of the test along with any other pertinent information. If your dog is not yet ready, the PADA team will offer you practical advice about how to proceed.

- **MCPQ-R questionnaire**

It stands for Monash Canine Personality Questionnaire-Revised and its questions are focused on providing an overview of your dog personality. This will give the evaluator an idea of what type of dog is applying to the test. Also, this is a first scanning moment for the evaluator to know if the dog should be doing the test or not based on the questionnaire's answer that the dog handler will provide.

- **Dog's personal information questionnaire**

This questionnaire instead will ask information about your dog's information such as health condition, diet, breed, if already working in AAI amongst others.

The procedure between applying and the actual test require certain reading and writing work , but this is all part of analysing if the dog is indeed suitable for the PADA test, or if, for any particular reason, the handler should wait longer or not do the test at all.

As PADA, we ask from you as owner, as hard as it might be, to set your beliefs aside and make space for what the test might show about your dog. Should your dog's behaviour surprise you, understand that in this way you now know more about it and you can develop a more satisfying lifestyle together. Understand that during the test, the dog has 100% its voice to tell you what really makes it happy if it could chose.

TEST DAY

On the day of the test, the Leader will welcome you and present you to the PADA team members. After you arrive, the Leader will greet you outside and guide you to another area. The Leader will then offer team introductions and will request that you hand-over any food and toys and address any testing clarifications for you. Please note that the test begins at arrival and much of the initial contact occurs with minimal conversation and is part of the actual test. The test takes about 45 minutes to an hour.

The test is composed of the following elements:

- *Sub-test 1*: Dog aggression, Meeting other dog
- *Sub-test 2*: Social contact, Meeting evaluator
- *Sub-test 3*: Passive situation, Walk into new room with people
- *Sub-test 4*: Sudden noise, Screaming person
- *Sub-test 5*: Resource defense, Knocking on the door
- *Sub-test 6*: Social contact, Dog approaches human when called
- *Sub-test 7*: Strange novel object
- *Sub-test 8*: Metallic noice
- *Sub-test 9*: Environment substrate
- *Sub-test 10*: Separation anxiety, Stairs with the evaluator
- *Sub-test 11*: Working memory, 'Sit' on signal

- *Sub-test 12*: Working memory, 'Lay down' on signal
- *Sub-test 13*: Working memory, "release" command
- *Sub-test 14*: Agoraphobia, Crowding
- *Sub-test 15*: Resource defense, Food - possessivity
- *Sub-test 16*: Interspecific play

THE TEST CAN BE REPEATED AFTER 6 MONTHS ONLY IN CASE OF CAUSES OF FORCE MAJORE

After the test you might be asked to wait outside the room with your dog while the team discusses the test. When you are requested to return to the room, you have the opportunity to ask questions, discuss the test with the PADA team, and listen to the team's observations and recommendations of the test results.

You will receive the official results within a week after the test.

CONTACT

For further information, do not hesitate to contact the PADA organization in your country listed on page 4 or ICofA directly.

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✉ post@icofa-community.com

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