



## Canine Problem-Solving Abilities

Here are three simple tests to gauge your dog's intelligence. Doing all three tests will only take a few minutes. Be sure to watch Pet Talk with Dr. Sarah for more details. No matter the results, may both of you have fun!

### Test One: Food Under Container

#### Items you'll need:

1. An empty Tupperware container.
2. A small treat your dog loves.
3. A timing device.

#### Instructions:

1. Tell your dog to sit. If he won't stay put, you'll need someone to gently hold him by the collar.
2. Show your dog the treat, giving him plenty of time to smell its aroma.
3. With your dog's full attention, slowly place the treat on the ground a few feet away. Quickly cover the treat with the inverted container.
4. Start the timer. Be sure to encourage your dog to find the treat.

#### Circle the corresponding score as follows:

- If your dog knocks over the container over and finds the food in 5 seconds or less ..... 5 points  
Between 5-15 seconds ..... 4 points  
Between 15-30 seconds ..... 3 points  
Between 30-60 seconds ..... 2 points  
If your dog sniffs around but doesn't actually get the food..... 1 point

Test One Score: \_\_\_\_\_

### Test 2: Food Under Towel

#### Items you'll need:

1. A medium-size towel.
2. A large, yummy treat.
3. A timing device.

#### Instructions:

1. Tell your dog to sit. If he won't stay put, you'll need someone to gently hold him by the collar.
2. Show your dog the treat, giving him plenty of time to smell its aroma.
3. With your dog's full attention, slowly place the treat on the ground a few feet away. Quickly cover the treat with the towel.
4. Start the timer. Be sure to encourage your dog to find the treat.

Circle the corresponding score as follows:

- If your dog retrieves food in 15 seconds or less ..... 5 points
- Between 15-30 seconds ..... 4 points
- Between 30-60 seconds ..... 3 points
- If your dog tries at first but then gives up ..... 2 points
- If your dog displays no interest for 2 minutes ..... 1 point

Test Two Score: \_\_\_\_\_

**Test 3: Towel Over Head**

Items you'll need:

1. A large bath towel.
2. A timing device.

Instructions:

1. Let the dog sniff the towel.
2. With a quick, smooth motion, throw the towel over your dog. Be sure to completely cover his head and shoulders.
3. Start the timer and watch silently.

Circle the corresponding score as follows:

- If your dog frees itself in 5 seconds or less ..... 5 points
- Between 5-15 seconds ..... 4 points
- Between 15-30 seconds ..... 3 points
- Between 30-60 seconds ..... 2 points
- If your dog doesn't free himself in under one minute ..... 1 point

Test Three Score: \_\_\_\_\_

Add All Scores for a Grand Total of: \_\_\_\_\_

Results:

- Over 10 points ..... Congratulations, he's a first-rate problem solver!
- 5-10 points ..... Wow, an average problem solver, but probably won't go to Harvard.
- Less than 5 points ..... Skills are in another area, like being super sweet!