

## **Dog Scout Handler Written Test**

The purpose of this test is to be sure that everyone that is a handler of a Dog Scout has the same high level of training and understanding as well as the ability to spread the missions of DSA in the most positive and productive way.

This is difficult to measure without face-to-face observation. However, Dog Scouts of America is no longer only in America. The ripples created by the start of DSA have spread across the borders and the oceans. We encourage people to help their dogs become all they can be, to start troops and become both Scoutmasters and Evaluators, but the need for worldwide travel to get the word out is prohibitive. For this reason, this written test was developed for use in conjunction with the in-person evaluations done by a Scoutmaster.

It is required that everyone who achieves the title of Dog Scout with their dog is able to answer the questions below.

There is no time limit for this test and you may use the materials and references that are recommended and listed in the "Start a Troop" section of the Dog Scouts of America website ([http://www.dogscouts.org/base/tonto-site/uploads/2014/10/Recommended\\_Resources.pdf](http://www.dogscouts.org/base/tonto-site/uploads/2014/10/Recommended_Resources.pdf)). Some questions cannot be answered without the knowledge available in these recommended resources.

You are encouraged to review your answers with your local Scoutmaster (if one is available). Please don't feel you have to limit your response to the space allowed. If you need to, feel free to add more paper and number the continuation of your answers to match the number of the question with which that answer relates. (Example: If you need to continue your answer for question 14 on another sheet of paper, start your continuation with 14)

You may take this test for your own edification (if you have already achieved the title of DSA), or it can be instituted by a Scoutmaster to verify that you have the knowledge needed to pass the handler portion of the Dog Scout certification.

You are very important to the mission of spreading Dog Scouts wisdom far and wide. Thank you for your interest in this organization.

Please print legibly (if you print this out) or return the following in electronic format to your local Scoutmaster or (if no Scoutmaster is available) to the certification Program Director:

[DogScouts@hotmail.com](mailto:DogScouts@hotmail.com)

### **The Dog Scout Mission and the Dog Scout Way:**

1) What are the missions of Dog Scouts of America?

2) How does DSA affect the lives of dogs and their owners, particularly those dogs that would end up in shelters?

3) List at least 5 things the handler needs to know to be “the smart end of the leash.”

4) Name 5 obvious calming signals that owners can watch for in their dogs.

5) List 4 examples of behaviors you can teach a dog that help him learn self control.

6) What would you say to someone that doesn't use clicker training to convince him or her to change to clicker methods? (Can use additional paper to continue your answer)

7) What is the covenant (agreement) owners should have with their dogs to prevent aggression?

8) How can the use of punishment make aggression worse?

9) In your opinion, what are the three most important behaviors a handler can teach the dog and why?

**Training/Teaching:**

10) What causes the dog to do as the handler requests? How do you get that?

11) How can someone break his or her dog's cycle of aggression toward other dogs?

12) How do owners affect (both positively and negatively) the body language their dogs show? (Give several examples)

13) Explain when and how a verbal cue for a new behavior is added and why?

14) When teaching the dog a new cue for a known behavior, explain when and how the new cue is added and why? (Example: Teaching the dog a new hand signal in place of a known verbal cue for a particular behavior).

15) Do you think people have to show the dog who is boss or be the Alpha?

16) What is socialization (give examples) and why is it important?

17) What is the best way to teach a dog or puppy to give you something they have and want?  
(Example: Puppy steals a food wrapper from the garbage)

18) What is a Gorn?

19) What is Positive Punishment and why does it not work in most cases?

20) List at least 4 of the ways we use our language in ways that can confuse our dogs.

21) List at least 4 of the reasons a dog may show very different behavior or reactions in various environments or with different people.

**The Dog Scout test:**

22) What types of collars are allowed on the dog when taking the Dog Scout test?

23) Why should you always have at least two clean up bags with you when you are with your dog?

24) For the Dog Scout test, it is required that you show you have taught your dog to walk by your side in heel position. Assuming that you do not plan to enter your dog in an obedience competition, why would this behavior be useful?

25) During the “friendly with other dogs” portion: If Rover greets your dog in a rude manner and your dog snaps at Rover, is this acceptable behavior from your dog? Why or why not?

26) What is the purpose of the “Leave It” exercise?

27) List at least 6 possible situations in which the “Leave it” cue can protect the dog from harm.

28) Describe how a dog should be taught the “Leave It” cue using DSA approved methods.

**Spreading the word:**

29) List 5 situations in which having a well mannered dog can help show the general public the joys of having such a well mannered dog.

30) Define Responsible Dog Owner in your own words

31) If your dog relieved himself in front of a crowd of people, what would you do?

32) If you saw someone training their dog using very harsh methods (severe leash corrections, yelling, etc.) what would you do?

33) How do you plan to spread the word about DSA, positive training and the human/canine bond?

34) A child is running toward your dog to greet him/her, assuming your dog loves kids, what do you do?

34a) What if your dog was not fond of kids, what would you do?