

Canine Psychometric Test

How To Test Your Dog's Drives

Here are some personality traits all categorised under their appropriate drive headings. The more yes answers you give for each question will give you an idea of your own dog's individual drive levels. For example: If you answer yes to 85% of the questions in the prey drive category, your dog clearly displays a strong prey drive instinct and you can assess that against the advice given previously for high prey drive dogs and so on. Feel free to print this document out for ease of completion.

<p>Prey Drive <i>Does Your Dog: Yes No</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sniff the ground or air frequently? _____ 2. Get excited by moving objects? _____ 3. Stalk cats, dogs or other objects? _____ 4. Bark in a high pitched voice when excited (yip)? _____ 5. Pounce on his/her toys? _____ 6. Steal food from work surfaces or other hidden areas? _____ 7. Shake and "KILL" his/her toys _____ 8. Rip soft objects apart? _____ 9. Gulp down food, never leaving any scraps? _____ 10. Like to carry/fetch things? _____ 11. Like to dig? _____ 12. Bury things? _____ 	<p>Pack Drive <i>Does Your Dog: Yes No</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Get along with other dogs? _____ 2. Get along with people? _____ 3. Bark when left alone? _____ 4. Urge people to pet them or make lots of effort to snuggle up to people? _____ 5. Respond positively to verbal praise? _____ 6. Like to be groomed, stroked or touched often? _____ 7. Make strong eye contact with you? _____ 8. Tremble or whine if left in a stay position? _____ 9. Follow you like a shadow? _____ 10. Play with you or other dogs happily? _____ 11. Jump up to greet people, even if he/her has never seen the person before? _____ 12. Show a lot of reproductive behaviour, i.e. mounting other dogs, people etc _____
<p>Defence Drive (Fight) <i>Does Your Dog: Yes No</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Investigate strange sounds or objects? _____ 2. Love to win at tug of war games? _____ 3. Bark or growl in a deep tone, bark with a clear, un panicky tone? _____ 4. Guard their territory? _____ 5. Guard you? _____ 6. Guard his/her food and/or toys? _____ 7. Show indifference to being petted? _____ 8. Dislike being groomed? _____ 9. Bite on lead when being corrected? _____ 10. Dominate other dogs? _____ 11. Like to fight or challenge even in a playful way? _____ 12. Get picked on or even attacked by older dogs than him/her? _____ 	<p>Defence Drive (Flight) <i>Does Your Dog: Yes No</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Run from new situations or show unease? _____ 2. Hide behind you when insecure about anything? _____ 3. Avoid direct confrontations by leaving the area? _____ 4. Run away when being told off or if training is going badly? _____ 5. Crowd you when walking at heel (i.e. cling to your legs)? _____ 6. Raise his/her hackles when meeting someone new or coming up against a strange dog? _____ 7. Avoids direct eye contact with you when you are facing him/her or if left in the stay position? _____ 8. Crawl on belly or turn upside down when being told off? _____ 9. Tries to escape if being examined or held by a strange person or even you? _____ 10. Urinates when he/she thinks they have done something wrong or are about to get told off? _____ 11. Urinates during a greeting, even in excitement? _____ 12. Bite or nip when cornered or bark/whine in an uncontrolled, panicky tone? _____

How Did You Score?

Prey Drive /12
 Pack Drive /12
 Defence Drive (Fight) /12
 Defence Drive (Flight) /12

Interpreting Results

Now you have a score in your hand and you want to know what it all means - are you living with a brave-heart or a bone-head, a nice-guy or a nutter?

Scored High On Prey Drive:

OK, so you think you're a tough guy huh! Well the truth is you probably are.

Dogs with high prey drive instincts tend to be bold, brash, fearless and focussed.

They live for stimulation, they do not well without it - remember that.

High prey drive dogs can be dominant creatures and are not always going to fulfil the role of loving, all-adoring family dog who will come when called, will spend long nights with you on the sofa or devote every moment of their attention to your needs.

They tend to have a mission in life and your job as the owner of a high prey drive is to discover quickly what that mission is and play a full role in allowing your dog to accomplish it - be it through work, training, high-impact physical activities or mentally stimulating challenges, if you fail to deliver you could be heading for problems such as boredom leading to aggression leading to a dominance challenge leading to a serious behavioural problem.

Think about enlisting in an activity that you can both enjoy such as FlyBall or obedience.

Scored High On Defence Drive (Flight):

Bit of a yellow-belly then. The dog with a high desire to 'leg-it' from confrontational situations can often be the hardest to train.

This is because their instincts tend to guide them in the direction of bailing or clearing off every time something goes against them, whether that be a bad experience in training or life in general.

They can be very hard to re-assure. You know something's OK but they don't want to find out, they've got four legs and they're gonna use em to leave the scene.

The other side of the coin with a high flight defence drive dog is that when escape is not an option, that's when they can get really hot and bothered.

Many instances of serious dog bite come from dogs who have a high flight defence drive who are cornered or trapped. They want to avoid their problems but when the luxury to do so is removed, they will use all their energy to create their own exit - if that means an attack, it can often be a nasty one.

Training sessions should be very light hearted, non confrontational and should always end in a positive note. Don't try and force anything, accept that your dog will always revert to avoidance first rather than a challenge, in many ways, this is not so bad a reaction.

Scored High On Defence Drive (Fight):

"Did you spill my pint?" OH dear. The canine equivalent of a pub brawler.

Well, actually not quite. High fight defence dogs can be very confident, if not a little aloof at times.

The bottom line is, if you mess with them, they will stand their ground.

Certain breeds are well-known for being high defence driven and will gladly stand up to a threat rather than leave the scene (see high defence drive flight). Many of the traditional 'flock guarding' dogs such as German Shepherds, Belgian Shepherds, Anatolian Shepherds etc are renowned for the natural defensive or cautious attitude toward strangers/perceived threats.

Scored High On Pack Drive:

Probably the most common behavioural problem associated with high pack drive dogs is separation anxiety. Dogs who are so comfortable in a pack or family environment often find it traumatic to be away from the structure and protection of their adopted human pack.

Dogs who have a high pack drive tend to be very easy natured dogs who are always willing to please their owners.

The hallmark of a dog who has a strong pack drive is the absolute need for social contact and one on one stimulation, they do not thrive or do well socially without it.

Lots of play, lots of games and a very regular routine can ensure a dog with high pack drive has a happy and fulfilling life.