

**Volhard Puppy Aptitude Test**  
 by Wendy Volhard  
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Test Administered by Tera Mueller on 12-2-11

Puppy Name Starr DOB 1-2-12 Parents: Huck x Maggie

TEST	PURPOSE	SCORE
<p><b>Social Attraction:</b></p> <p>Place the puppy in test area. From a few feet away the tester coaxes the pup to her/him by clapping hands gently and kneeling down. Tester must coax in a direction away from the point where it entered the testing area.</p>	<p>Degree of social attraction, confidence or dependence. Degree of social attraction, confidence or dependence.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Came readily, tail up, jumped, bit at hands</li> <li>2. <b>Came readily, tail up, pawed, licked at hands.</b></li> <li>3. Came readily, tail up.</li> <li>4. Came readily, tail down.</li> <li>5. Came hesitantly, tail down.</li> <li>6. Did not come at all.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Following:</b></p> <p>Stand up and walk away from the pup in a normal manner. Make sure the pup sees you walk away.</p>	<p>Degree of following attraction. Not following indicates independence.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Followed readily, tail up, got underfoot, bit at feet.</li> <li>2. Followed readily, tail up, got underfoot.</li> <li>3. <b>Followed readily, tail up.</b></li> <li>4. Followed readily, tail down.</li> <li>5. Followed hesitantly, tail down.</li> <li>6. No following, or went away.</li> </ol>

<p><b>Restraint:</b></p> <p>Crouch down and gently roll the pup on his back and hold it with one hand for a full 30 seconds.</p>	<p>Degree of dominant or submissive tendency. How it accepts stress when socially and/or physically dominated.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Struggled fiercely, flailed, bit.</li> <li>2. Struggled fiercely, flailed.</li> <li>3. Settled, struggled, settled with some eye contact.</li> <li>4. <b>Struggled, then settled.</b></li> <li>5. No struggle.</li> <li>6. No struggle, straining to avoid eye contact.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Social Dominance:</b></p> <p>Let pup stand up and gently stroke him from the head to back while you crouch beside him. Continue stroking until a recognizable behavior is established.</p>	<p>Degree of acceptance of social dominance pup may try to dominate by jumping and nipping or it is independent and walks away.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Jumped, pawed, bit growled.</li> <li>2. Jumped, pawed.</li> <li>3. <b>Cuddles up to testor and tries to lick face.</b></li> <li>4. Squirmed, licked at hands.</li> <li>5. Rolled over, licked at hands.</li> <li>6. Went away and stayed away.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Elevation Dominance:</b></p> <p>Bend over and cradle the pup under its belly, fingers interlaced, palms up and elevate just off the ground. Hold it there for 30 seconds.</p>	<p>Degree of accepting dominance while in position of no control.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Struggled fiercely, bit growled.</li> <li>2. <b>Struggled fiercely.</b></li> <li>3. No struggle, relaxed.</li> <li>4. Struggled, settled, licked.</li> <li>5. No struggled, licked at hands.</li> <li>6. No struggle, froze.</li> </ol>

PLEASE KNOW that the optimal time to give the Volhard Puppy Test is at 49 days of age (7 weeks old) but with puppies leaving us at 8 weeks we can't wait that long for families to select their puppy and we feel we have a pretty good idea of each puppy's personality at around 5 weeks of age. I didn't administer the retrieving/obedience section of the test because it isn't appropriate for these little guys at 5 weeks of age, they just look at me like I'm crazy! So, while we feel this test is a good assessment of the puppy's personality we also feel that this isn't the sole method of determining a puppy's personality so I've included a summary of the puppy's personality based on daily interaction.

**Starr is the biggest of the bunch. She has lots of colors to her coat and has a white spot right on top her head. She is pretty funny to watch cause she's very playful and if she wants to play and one of her litter mates doesn't want to play, she will bat at them with her paw. She is the leader of the pack, always the first one out of the pen. Very sweet and cuddly.**

## INTERPRETATION OF SCORES

### **Mostly 1's:**

This dog is extremely dominant and has aggressive tendencies. It is quick to bite and is generally considered not good with children or the elderly. When combined with a 1 or 2 in touch sensitivity, will be a difficult dog to train. Not a dog for the in experienced handler; takes a competent trainer to establish leadership.

### **Mostly 2's:**

This dog is dominant and can be provoked to bite. Responds well to firm, consistent, fair handling in an adult household, and is likely to be a loyal pet once it respects its human leader. Often has bouncy, outgoing temperament: may be too active for elderly, and too dominant for small children.

### **Mostly 3's:**

This dog accepts human leaders easily. Is best prospect for the average owner, adapts well to new situations and generally good with children and elderly, although it may be inclined to be active. Makes a good obedience prospect and usually has a common sense approach to life.

### **Mostly 4's:**

This dog is submissive and will adapt to most households. May be slightly less outgoing and active than a dog scoring mostly 3's. Gets along well with children in general and trains well.

### **Mostly 5's:**

This dog is extremely submissive and needs special handling to build confidence and bring him out of his shell. Does not adapt well to change and confusion and needs a very regular, structured environment. Usually safe around children and bites only when severely stressed. Not a good choice for a beginner since it frightens easily, and takes a long time to get used to new experiences.

### **Mostly 6's:**

This dog is independent. He is not affectionate and may dislike petting and cuddling. It is difficult to establish a relationship with him for working or as a pet. Not recommended for children who may force attention on him; he is not a beginner's dog.