

Guide Dogs for the Blind Project
Mendocino County 4-H – Pathfinders Puppy Raisers
Level Testing Courtesy of
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Proficiency Test – Level 4

Section One – Multiple Choice

Circle the best possible answer or answers for each question. All correct answers are in accordance with the Guide Dog puppy raising manual.

1. If a dog is being considered for breeding which of the following does the breeding manager take into account? (Circle all that apply)
 - A) Health
 - B) Beauty
 - C) Temperament
 - D) Trainability

2. In phase one of formal training, which of the following exams do the pups receive? (Circle all that apply)
 - A) Hip and elbow x-ray
 - B) Eye exam
 - C) Full teeth cleaning and dental exam
 - D) Heartworm check

3. A brood (female breeder) will be retired from the breeding program by the age of...
 - A) 6
 - B) 7
 - C) 8
 - D) 9

4. In which phase of formal training is the dog introduced to the harness?
 - A) 1
 - B) 2
 - C) 3
 - D) 4

5. Once the graduate goes home with their new guide, which of the following services are provided?
- A) Life time supply of dog food
 - B) Appropriate veterinary reimbursement
 - C) Home visits and phone counseling
 - D) New harness every two years
6. The gestation period of a female dog is
- A) 50 days
 - B) 53 days
 - C) 63 days
 - D) 73 days
7. Which of the following is an incorrect amount of time that a student would be in class?
- A) 2 weeks
 - B) 3 weeks
 - C) 4 weeks
 - D) 5 weeks
8. A dog may be removed from a home for which of the following reasons?
- A) Use of inappropriate corrections
 - B) Poor attendance to guide dog group activities
 - C) If there is a hazardous animal in the house
 - D) All of the above
9. Which of the following foods is **not** poisonous to dogs?
- A) Raisins or Grapes
 - B) Raw onions or onion powder
 - C) Asparagus
 - D) Coffee
10. Many plants can also be poisonous to dogs. Which of the following is **not** poisonous?
- A) Snap Dragons
 - B) Mistletoe
 - C) Oleander Bushes
 - D) Philodendrons

Section Two- True/False

For each question decide whether the answer is true or false and circle the correct answer.

1. If you raise a puppy that becomes a breeder, you must live within 75 miles of the California campus in order to become the breeder keeper.

True or False

2. The puppies begin daily socialization activities at three weeks of age.

True or False

3. According to GDB terminology a "string" is the line or family tree of an individual pup.

True or False

4. Christmas trees are hazardous to dogs for many reasons.

True or False

5. The puppy raiser has the first option to adopt a retired guide.

True or False

6. The command heel is taught to the pup during formal training.

True or False

7. All career change applications are accepted and kept on file.

True or False

8. A dog can be in formal training anywhere between 5 and 9 months.

True or False

9. Some students may receive "in home" training because they are unable to attend on campus training.

True or False

10. The health of a dog's littermates has no impact on whether or not they are chosen as part of the breeding colony.

True or False

11. Guide Dogs for the Blind will gladly accept a dog back at any time, including those that have been placed as career changes.

True or False

12. Phase reports are written weekly by instructors and then passed on so raisers may view them.

True or False

13. All dogs not selected for the breeding program are altered.

True or False

14. If a problem arises that is evaluated as being chronic or impossible to correct the dog will be dropped from the program.

True or false

15. In case of a possible poisoning a vet should be consulted as soon as the pup shows signs of illness.

True or false

16. A raiser's success is measured by the amount of love, effort and time spent with a puppy.

True or False

Section Three- Short Answer

For each of the following questions write in the best possible answer for each question in the space provided. Complete sentences are not necessary.

1. There are eight items that need to be returned when your pup is recalled for training, list 5 of them. (Hint – 3 of them are important pieces of paperwork.)

2. Briefly explain how the puppies are identified and told apart when they are with their littermates in the kennel.

3. Why is it a bad idea to tour the kennels while your pup is in formal training?

4. Explain why a dog would be "passed back" while in formal training.

5. There are nine general topics a student is taught while in class. List four of them.

6. A common misconception of guide dogs is that they can read signal lights or are taught to memorize routes. They do learn many important skills however that allow them to safely navigate their partner around. List five important concepts the dog learns to become a successful guide.

Participation

In order to complete this level of testing the raiser must have exposed their pup (or a pup) to a variety of situations including but not limited to:

- 3 different modes of transportation
- Mild sports event
- City and farm exposure
- Water exposure (Ex. Lake, ocean, etc.)
- Crowd work

The raiser must also give a presentation on Guide Dogs. Preferably to an outside group such as a scout troop, 4-H or church group, or in a classroom. This will enhance speaking skills and help develop the puppy raiser as a representative of Guide Dogs. In the case that such a group is not available the raiser may give a presentation the puppy raising club on a related topic. Example topics include foxtails, grooming, dog first aid, appropriate behavior or toys.

Demonstration

The leader should set up a situation where the raiser can demonstrate how to work a puppy when seeding the floor. Any item may be used along with any toys. It is also ok to set a puppy up for this demo by creating a situation where the pup might try to go after a certain inappropriate item and the raiser will use a leash or dragline to correct the pup. The raiser can explain the steps and what they are doing throughout the demonstration.