

## WHAT DO THE SCORES MEAN?

The scores are interpreted as follows:

Mostly 1's -

Strong desire to be pack leader and is not shy about bucking for a promotion  
Has a predisposition to be aggressive to people and other dogs and will bite  
Should only be placed into a very experienced home where the dog will be trained and worked on a regular basis

*Top Dog Tips: Stay away from the puppy with a lot of 1's or 2's. It has lots of leadership aspirations and may be difficult to manage. This puppy needs an experienced home. Not good with children.*

Mostly 2's -

Also has leadership aspirations  
May be hard to manage and has the capacity to bite  
Has lots of self-confidence  
Should not be placed into an inexperienced home  
Too unruly to be good with children and elderly people, or other animals  
Needs strict schedule, loads of exercise and lots of training  
Has the potential to be a great show dog with someone who understands dog behavior

Mostly 3's -

Can be a high-energy dog and may need lots of exercise  
Good with people and other animals  
Can be a bit of a handful to live with  
Needs training, does very well at it and learns quickly  
Great dog for second time owner.

Mostly 4's -

The kind of dog that makes the perfect pet  
Best choice for the first time owner.  
Rarely will buck for a promotion in the family  
Easy to train, and rather quiet.  
Good with elderly people, children, although may need protection from the children  
Choose this pup, take it to obedience classes, and you'll be the star, without having to do too much work!

*Tidbits: The puppy with mostly 3's and 4's can be quite a handful, but should be good with children and does well with training. Energy needs to be dispersed with plenty of exercise.*

Mostly 5's -

Fearful, shy and needs special handling

Will run away at the slightest stress in its life

Strange people, strange places, different floor or ground surfaces may upset it

Often afraid of loud noises and terrified of thunder storms. When you greet it upon your return, may submissively urinate. Needs a very special home where the environment doesn't change too much and where there are no children

Best for a quiet, elderly couple

If cornered and cannot get away, has a tendency to bite

*Top Dog Tips: Avoid the puppy with several 6's. It is so independent it doesn't need you or anyone. He is his own person and unlikely to bond to you.*

Mostly 6's -

So independent that he doesn't need you or other people

Doesn't care if he is trained or not - he is his own person Unlikely to bond to you, since he doesn't need you.

A great guard dog for gas stations!

Do not take this puppy and think you can change him into a lovable bundle - you can't, so leave well enough alone

## **INTERPRETING THE SCORES**

Few puppies will test with all 2's or all 3's - there will be a mixture of scores.

For that first time, wonderfully easy to train, potential star, look for a puppy that scores with mostly 4's and 3's. Don't worry about the score on Touch Sensitivity - you can compensate for that with the right training equipment.

*Tidbits: It's hard not to become emotional when picking a puppy - they are all so cute, soft and cuddly. Remind yourself that this dog is going to be with you for 8 to 16 years. Don't hesitate to step back a little to contemplate your decision. Sleep on it and review it in the light of day.*

Avoid the puppy with a score of 1 on the Restraint and Elevation tests. This puppy will be too much for the first time owner.

It's a lot more fun to have a good dog, one that is easy to train, one you can live with and one you can be proud of, than one that is a constant struggle.