

## Placement Test Information & Self-Test

*Which class should I take next?*

Thank you for your interest in dog training classes at Marin Humane. If you haven't had classes with us before, please schedule a placement test to join us for an intermediate, advanced, or specialty class. Register online for a [standard placement test](#) or [agility placement test](#) and review the descriptions of the required behaviors outlined on the following pages for the class level in which you wish to be assessed.

If you need additional assistance, please email [ohbehave@marinhumane.org](mailto:ohbehave@marinhumane.org).

### **What Happens?**

- Please be prepared to answer the following questions:
  1. Dog's age and breed (or size and best guess of mix)
  2. Length of time with guardian
  3. Guardian's previous dog training experience (years, type of training, type of dogs)
  4. The dog's previous training experience (with guardian or other)
  5. Your reasons for wanting to skip the formal prerequisites
  6. Which class you wish to attend
- If you wish to place into a Family Dog class, watch Marin Humane's [Family Dog 1 Virtual Orientation](#) to ensure you understand our training methodology and vocabulary. The virtual orientation is *not* required for agility placement tests.
- Bring your dog to a placement test with one of our trainers. Appointments usually take 30-45 minutes, during which we will ask you and your dog to demonstrate the behaviors described for the class in which you have an interest.
- Bring your dog to the appointment wearing his regular walking equipment. A flat snap or buckle collar and a six-foot leash are required for use during the test.
- The trainer conducting your placement test will advise you of which class you may register for immediately following your test.

***Is my dog ready for Family Dog 2 (FD2)?***

1. I can demonstrate that my dog understands a marker signal (click, yes, etc.). I can also explain how a marker signal is used to teach my dog.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
2. My dog understands a release word (release, all done, okay, etc.)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
3. My dog will orient to me when I cue a specific behavior or call his name.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
4. My dog will target my hand with his nose on cue (e.g., touch).	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
5. My dog will get on and hold a position on a mark bucket, platform, or other stationing prop.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
6. My dog is comfortable sitting in front of me or on my left and/or right side.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
7. My dog can perform a sit or down for a 1-minute duration with reinforcement (treats/toy) when there are no distractions.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
8. My dog will wait at a threshold (door, etc.) until given a release word.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
9. My dog can walk next to me on leash without pulling in a distraction-free environment with food or toy reinforcements available.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
10. My dog will recall (come, here, etc.) to me 8 out of 10 times from 20 feet. Use of a toy and/or treats and long line is encouraged.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
11. My dog is mostly quiet in class. (Barking occasionally is okay.) I know how to manage my dog if he barks at dogs or people passing our station, and can give one example of what to do in that situation.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
12. My dog will voluntarily enter a class crate and take treats in the crate.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
13. My dog can focus on me and work in a group class with a reasonable use of visual barriers. I understand how to use barriers to manage my dog's excitement or anxiety level.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

*If you answered “yes” to at least 10 of these statements, you are likely ready for **Family Dog 2** or most of our **workshops**.*

***Is my dog ready for Family Dog 3 (FD3)?***

1. My dog can orient to me for at least 20 seconds when cued.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
2. My dog will move into a sit on either my left or right side on a verbal and/or hand cue.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
3. My dog will get on and hold a position on a mark bucket, platform, or other stationing prop while I step away to the end of the leash.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
4. My dog will send to and stay on a target (dog bed, mark bucket, platform, etc.) when cued from four feet away.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
5. My dog can perform a 1-minute sit and 2-minute down under distraction (e.g., people walking or novel objects within 10 feet, noises like keys jingling), with reinforcement (treats/toy). The dog can hold the position when I move to the end of the leash.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
6. My dog will wait and remain at a threshold (door, etc.) when cued while I go through first. When released the dog moves toward me.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
7. My dog can walk next to me on leash without pulling in a distracting environment (e.g., dogs and people walking nearby) with food or toy reinforcements available.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
8. My dog will recall (come, here, etc.) to me from a distance of 20 feet 8 out of 10 times under distraction (e.g. other dogs moving nearby). My dog will finish his recall in a controlled position (e.g., sit, heel). Use of a toy and/or treats and long line is encouraged.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
9. My dog will disregard (leave it) an item of interest 8 out of 10 times when cued without physical interference (leash pulling, body block, etc.).	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
10. My dog can sit calmly by my side when someone comes to talk to me.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
11. My dog is mostly quiet both in a crate and at a workstation in class. (Barking occasionally is okay.)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
12. My dog can focus on me and work in a group class with a reasonable use of visual barriers. I understand how to use barriers to manage my dog's excitement or anxiety level.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

*If you answered "yes" to at least 8 of these statements, you are likely ready for **Family Dog 3**.*

***Is my dog ready for Family Dog 4 (FD4) or Foundation Skills for Agility 1 (FSFA1)?***

1. My dog can move into heel (sit at handler's left side) position with a verbal cue (minimal visual cue if needed) and no lure. My dog can move into a sit position at my right side using verbal and/or hand signals without a lure.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
2. My dog can execute a sit or down on either the left or right side of my body using verbal and/or hand cues.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
3. My dog will move away from me to a target (dog bed, mark bucket, platform, etc.) when cued from six feet away. He will remain there until released or cued to do another behavior, even if I move away from him. Teams who wish to take Foundation Skills for Agility must be able to do this using the mark bucket and "mark" position (dog's two front feet on the mark bucket, rear legs in a stand).	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
4. My dog can perform a sit or down for a 3-minute duration under significant distractions (e.g., toys, people, dogs, noisemakers, moving objects, etc. within six feet). My dog can maintain a sit or down while I disengage (back facing the dog) and walk away at a normal pace up to six feet away.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
5. My dog will perform a sit or down while facing me from two feet away using a verbal cue only (no hand signals needed).	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
6. My dog will wait and remain at a threshold (door, etc.) with only a verbal cue even if I am moving. When released the dog moves toward me.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
7. My dog can walk next to me for a distance of 100 feet with the leash dragging or draped over my shoulder under moderate distraction (e.g. people, dogs, novel objects, etc. moving within 10 feet) without using visible treats or toys.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
8. My dog will recall (come, here, etc.) to me from 40 feet when two or more dogs are recalled simultaneously 10 feet away or when there are toys or food along the dog's path.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
9. My dog will disregard (leave it) an item of interest upon verbal cue with a loose leash and without physical interference (leash pulling, body block, etc.).	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
10. My dog is mostly quiet in a crate in class.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
11. My dog can refocus (and maintain focus) on me under considerable distraction in class or out in the real world.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

*If you answered "yes" to at least 8 of these statements, you are likely ready for **Family Dog 4**. Skills 1-4 and 10-11 as well as passage of Family Dog 3 are required for **Foundation Skills for Agility 1**.*

*Is my dog ready for Family Dog 5 (FD5)?*

1. My dog can move into heel (sit at handler's left side) position from 10 feet with a verbal cue (minimal visual cue if needed) and no lure. My dog can move into a sit position at my right side using verbal and/or hand signals without a lure.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
2. My dog can execute a sit, down or stand on either the left or right side of my body using verbal and/or hand cues.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
3. My dog will move away from me (send) to a target (bed, mark bucket, platform, etc.) 10 feet away and remain there until cued to send to a second target. My dog does not try to return to me between cues.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
4. My dog will perform a sit or down while facing me from 4 feet away using a verbal or hand cue (not both together).	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
5. My dog can hold a sit, down or stand for a 3-minute duration under significant distractions (e.g., a person stopping to talk with me, shake my hand, or exchange objects with me).	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
6. My dog can chase a tossed treat and perform a cued wait in motion on the return.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
7. My dog can walk next to me on either my left or right side for a distance of 100 feet in a distracting outdoor environment with the leash dragging or draped over my shoulder without using visible treats or toys.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
8. My dog will remain in a cued position as another dog is recalled past them 10 feet away, and will then recall (come, here, etc.) to me on cue.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
9. My dog will disregard (leave it) an item of interest upon verbal cue while walking over it with a dragging leash.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
10. My dog can interact with a novel object without fear. If my dog is afraid of the object, I know how to help him get more comfortable with it.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
11. I understand the concept of a behavior chain and my dog can perform 3+ behaviors in sequence correctly, even if I vary the order of the cues.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
12. My dog crates quietly in class even when I leave him. My dog can refocus on me under considerable distraction at a workstation in class.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

*If you answered "yes" to at least 7 of these statements, you are likely ready for **Family Dog 5**.*