



**International Federation Of Rottweilerfriends
Internationale Föderation der Rottweilerfreunde
Federación Internacional De Amigos Del Rottweiler**

The dog is a social animal. Of course he is ... isn't he ... ?

For all dog lovers, the fact that the dog is a social being with a firm place in human society, can not even be called into question.

Like no other animal, the dog has indeed been domesticated and more than this, creating dog breeds, man himself has formed the dog in body and mind to suit his needs and preferences.

But, human society has changed. Our ways of living, of working and housing have changed. Rural living, widely spaced and with understanding for Mother Nature's ways, made way for a crowded city life, living on each other's lips.

Work is out-of-doors, is all time-consuming, stressful, aimed only at efficiency with no room left for anything else. In our private lives, "cocooning", **consciously** cut off as much as possible from all external influences has become the rule. Many of us do not know their neighbours, there is hardly any communication or interaction with others and man has become intolerant to everything that breaks through the walls of his private cocoon. The slightest nuisance is experienced as offensive and unacceptable.

Is there still room left for the dog ?

The needs that originally led to the domestication of the dog hardly exist anymore. With the exception of a handful of hunting dogs and service dogs, the utility usage of the dog has almost become a mere romantic idea that only lives on in dog sport but is no longer the conscious necessity on which our cohabitation with the dog was based.

Now, his place in our crowded society is being questioned even as a mere pet : don't forget that dogs bark, they foul public areas such as streets, parks or common areas in apartment buildings, they smell, lose hair, ... and even worse of all ... dogs may even bite

So I ask the question again : is the dog a social being ? Of course he is but it is no longer enough to be convinced ourselves, we must now also prove it to the world. Every day again.

Chiseled in the Constitution of the International Federation of Rottweilerfriends (IFR) as one of it's essential goals, even one of the main reasons of its founding, is :

The goal of the IFR is to worldwide align the breeding of the Rottweiler with the requirements of human and animal living together, this both with respect for the demands proper to modern and future society and yet without loss of the original



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physical characteristics and traits of character of the Rottweiler as defined by the FCI-breedstandard.

These traits of character consist in a high confidence of character, a sociable behavior in the family and society and the aptitude of a utility dog.

The Constitution also defines some the instruments that should be used for this :

The IFR considers it of prime importance to introduce, continue or intensify efforts, in order to breed exclusively with dogs that are healthy in body and mind, with a self-assured nature, a well-balanced nervous condition and a sufficiently high stimulus threshold.

For this, all members of the IFR commit themselves to :

- *introduce and organize tests of social acceptable behavior.*

These tests have the purpose to test, recognize, know and reward social behaviour and the underlying self-assured and well-balanced nature.

These tests therefore have their importance in our daily cohabitation with the dog just as well as in breeding programs and they can and will help us to ensure the future of the Rottweiler breed.

Of course, many if not most IFR-Member Clubs already organize such tests and then mostly according to the FCI recognized BH-program (Begleitungshund = companion dog).

However, as useful as this program may be as an assessment of social behaviour, we cannot pass by the fact that participating the BH-program demands an advanced obedience, incl. heeling, sit and down out of motion, ... while most Rottweiler owners will not be persuaded to take their dogs to a club or training field to educate their dog further than what is expected of them in their personal daily life.

For this reason, the IFR esteemed it important to make an assessment program for which no specific training or preparation, other than a normal education, is needed. All Rottweiler lovers can and should participate this test.

The worldwide uniform organization of this assessment will help us in achieving the IFR's goals.

I call upon all true Rottweiler friends : let's prove to the world that the Rottweiler is indeed a social being, has indeed a well deserved place in human society and that he is truly a great dog in every sense.



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ASSESSMENT OF SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

A. General provisions.

1. Organization.

1.1. Location.

The first part test is organized on an inclosed field, the second part in daily trafic.

The field will be equiped with al tools mentionned in these regulations, including a microchip reader in working order.

1.2. Participants.

Can participate : all Rottweilers

- with a pedigree issued by an FCI-affiliated kennelclub (full member, associated member or contract partner).
- Minimum 15 months old on the day of the test.
- Identified by tatoo or microchip.

The handler must be at least 18 years old at the moment of the test.

Bitches in heat are allowed to participate but will do so last, after all other participants have ended the assessment.

Dogs are led by a leash of not longer dan 1.5 meter and not shorter than 80 cm.

The collar is made of leather or is a metal chain with large links (the leash must be attached to a link but not the live ring so the dog cannot be choked).

2. Judges.

May judge the test, all judges licenced to judge BH and those persons who are, because of their particular experiences and/or knowledge of the Rottweiler breed and canine behaviour in general, designated by the Board of the national IFR-Member Club to judge the test.



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The judge may only judge 15 dogs / day. If more dogs participate, additional judges must be appointed.

3. Behaviour during the test.

The handler will at all times follow the directions of the judge(s). Refusing to do so leads to immediate disqualification.

The handler is allowed to reward the dog but only between exercises and not excessively. He will not show nor reward the dog with toys or food.

At no times may the handler use force.

The dog will be led in a natural manner, with a long leash and will not be taken or commanded under obedience as if during a trial.

The assessment and conclusion of the judge cannot be disputed and is not open for appeal.

4. The assessment.

The assessment wants to appreciate the dog's natural behaviour in daily circumstances, towards people, traffic, other dogs

Being social is more than "not biting", it means that the dog is sufficiently controlled and manageable to function in a normal and socially acceptable manner, under all circumstances that one can expect in daily interaction with people, dogs and traffic.

The criterion to succeed the assessment is therefore not the degree of training or obedience of the dog but the establishment that, at the moment of the assessment, the dog's behaviour is under all circumstances social, meaning that he shows to be able to be part of daily life in a normal manner without being a hazard to himself and or his surroundings.

Showing to be playful, attentive, on guard, etc. ... are not faulty unless they are so excessive that the dog is not manageable but rather out of control.

The judge can and must stop the assessment when he is of the opinion that the dogs behaviour is hazardous for the dog, the handler or their surroundings.

A dog showing to be aggressive or overly shy or fearful, cannot pass the test.



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If a dog does not pass the test, then the judge will state if the dog may or may not be entered again in the future but never before a period of at least 6 months has passed and always under another judge.

The assessment will be ended with the conclusion PASSED or NOT PASSED.

All dogs who succeed the assessment will be given a certificate, signed by the organizing club and the judge(s).

No points or scores are given but the judge is free to add comments to the certificate of the dog that succeeds the assessment.

If a dog is disqualified because of being aggressive, the judge will make a written report with detailed mention of the dogs behaviour and will give or send it to the national IFR-Memberclub to act upon the way the Memberclub sees fit.

B. The assessment routines.

I. First part – on an enclosed field.

During this first part, the judge must ascertain himself, not of the dogs degree of training or obedience, but that the dog is sufficiently obedient, manageable and controlled to be safely led in daily traffic during the second part of the assessment.

1. Identification of the dog by the judge.

The judge will position himself outdoors and will invite, one by one, all participants to present themselves and their dog. After a firm handshake, the judge will identify the dog by checking his tattoo or microchip. While it is allowed for the handler to hold the dog's head (without using force), the judge must use the micro-chipreader himself and may not leave this to the handler.

Dogs who cannot be identified because of a illegible tattoo, a non found microchip or because they do not allow the judge to approach and touch them, are excluded from further participation.

2. Walk on leash.

The participant will follow the path pointed out by the judge. The path will be at least 50 to max. 100 meter and will contain at least one angle to the right, one to the left,



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one turn around and one stop. The organization will put little poles or other objects at the disposal of the judge to mark the path.

After the stop, the handler walks with the dog on a long leash through a group of at least 8 people who mill around while talking to each other. He makes a turn around to enter the group again and stops in the middle of the group. All people in the group keep moving, this time on the spot and at a distance of about 1 meter of the dog.

At the signal of the judge, the handler leads his dog out of the group and positions himself at about 20 meter from the group.

At the signal of the judge the group moves towards the dog who is held by an unstrung leash and encloses the dog to a distance of approx. 1 m. The handler talks to one or more of the people in the group but will not touch nor address the dog and will not take or command him under obedience. The judge will give the group the signal to leave the dog and to reposition itself again at a distance of about 20 meter with a diameter of approx. 2 – 3 meter.

Not the degree of obedience is important but the natural free manner of behaviour of the dog. The dog must show not to be shy, uncertain, fearful or aggressive.

Being playful and showing attention to its surrounding is not a fault and heeling is not necessary but the dog must show to be sufficiently manageable and controlled to safely participate the second part of the test, incl. a walk in actual daily traffic.

3. Calling / controlling the dog.

The handler positions himself with the dog at approx. 10 meter from the group. He commands the dog to stay or asks a third person to hold the dog by the leash. The handler then positions himself in the middle of the group and at the signal of the judge, calls the dog to him. The dog must enter the group and join his handler.

Repeated commands to enter the group are allowed. The dog that runs away from the group and cannot be brought under control, is excluded from further participation.

Again, not the degree of obedience is important, but establishing that the dog is sufficiently under control of the handler and shows the minimal obedience that is necessary to be a safe part of traffic.



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The dog may show no fear or aggression towards people.

II. Assessment in traffic.

This part of the assessment must be taken very seriously. While it is not necessary to organize the test in extreme busy traffic or circumstances, it must be organized and judged in real daily traffic, not on the parking lot of a club or away from the provocations to be expected in daily traffic.

The handler will walk with the dog on leash on the sidewalk over a distance of at least 50 meter.

During the first part of this walk, he encounters a person, stops, greets the person with loud voice and firm handshake and then continues the walk.

During the second part of the walk, he crosses a bicycle (on his right side, riding on the street) and a jogger (on his left side, running on the sidewalk).

At the signal of the judge (or if possible at traffic lights), the handler will stop, check traffic on the street and when it is safe he will cross the street and continue the walk but now in the direction of where the judge is standing.

During this part of the walk, he will, without stopping, cross another handler with a dog on the leash, not necessarily a participant or a Rottweiler.

The judge is free to add exercises, for example to have a car stop next to the handler and have the driver ask for directions, to have the dog walk in the middle of a group of persons who walk in the same direction, etc.

Again, the criterion is not obedience but the dog being manageable in a normal and socially acceptable manner, self-assured and not aggressive or fearful toward people, other dogs or traffic.

Hasselt, 04.04.2017.