

# HOUSE OF DOG



## **What is the Temperament Test?**

Temperament tests are a series of planned exercises designed to assess your dog's potential for aggressive behavior and to determine the current level of social development. The purpose of the test is to ensure that your dog can play safely with others, without posing any danger to itself or other dogs.

## **Conducting the Client Pre-Temperament Test Interview**

You should arrive on the day of the temperament test with your completed application and agreement and an up-to-date record of vaccinations and evidence of all pre-requirements. House of Dog Retreat & Spa staff will sit down with you and your pet and briefly review the information that you have provided in the application package. We will discuss your dog's likes and dislikes, and any other relevant information that you deem necessary for the House of Dog to know about your pet.

A verification will be performed by the staff to ensure that your pet meets all the criteria prior to admittance at House of Dog Retreat & Spa. We will also review the benefits of dog daycare.

## **What to expect during the Temperament Test.**

Your pet will be placed in a secure area during the Temperament Test and transition through the following phases:

- **Phase 1:** While leashed, your dog will have the opportunity to meet each staff member that will be interacting with your dog daily.
- **Phase 2:** Your dog (still leashed) will be introduced to other dogs in the center (one at a time). Your pet will be observed for threatening body language, or posturing. If no negative behaviors present themselves during this phase, we will then move to the next phase.
- **Phase 3:** We will allow your pet to interact with the dogs they have been introduced to in the previous phase unleashed. If all goes well and they interact socially, we will then move to the next phase.
- **Phase 4:** We will bring a toy into the equation and play with your pet and the other dogs at the same time, and give them a treat. During this phase, we are checking for toy aggression and food possessive/aggressive tendencies. If all is going well, we will move forward to the next phase.
- **Phase 5:** We will bring in another group of dogs and repeat the routine. Each group session with the dogs will last approximately 10 minutes. We expect to see play behavior, or even casual disinterest by your dog after he/she becomes accustomed to the situation. This process should take a minimum of 30-45 minutes.

- **Phase 6:** We will introduce your pet to the main pack. Your pet will be placed on the leash and walked into the play area. We expect that there will be a lot of sniffs, and wags, and possibly a little posturing from some of the senior members of the pack. After 5 to 10 minutes the initial excitement will die down and the play group will begin to interact appropriately and return to its normal activities.
- **Phase 7:** During the last phase of the Temperament Test, we will unleash your pet so that he/she can roam amongst the pack freely.

The staff will continue to shadow your pet closely throughout the day. When you pick your pet up, we will provide you with a report card on the test and talk to you about next steps.