

# Puppy Temperament & Aptitude Profiles

Coco & Gio's June 17, 2026 Litter

smith family  
doodles



## ABOUT THESE ASSESSMENTS

*These breeder-developed temperament and aptitude profiles combine evaluations at approximately eight weeks old with our daily observations of each puppy throughout development. Testing includes social interaction, handling, play, problem-solving, obstacles, and responses to new sights and sounds.*

*Temperament testing is a snapshot of emerging tendencies—not a prediction of who a puppy will become. Puppies continue to develop through experience, training and lifestyle. We use these observations to help identify the puppy whose natural tendencies may best complement each family.*

## Sterling Royale

*Attentive • Cooperative • Affectionate • Playful • Thoughtful*

### AT A GLANCE

|                 |                                            |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Social Style:   | Highly People-Oriented + Affectionate      |
| Activity Style: | Playful + Engaged                          |
| Learning Style: | Highly Attentive + Cooperative             |
| Handling:       | Comfortable; Prefers Close Orientation     |
| Novelty:        | Observe → Orient → Confidently Participate |

## OVERALL PERSONALITY

Sterling combines strong people orientation with an attentive, cooperative working style. Formal temperament testing gave us a wonderful opportunity to see those qualities shine.

During structured exercises, Sterling was exceptionally easy to work with. He followed direction readily, engaged enthusiastically with toys and obstacles, and confidently participated without requiring excessive encouragement.

Sterling is highly people-oriented and openly affectionate. With familiar people, he actively seeks connection and can be exuberantly excited when reunited or receiving attention. Once that connection is met, he settles comfortably. **For Sterling, connection can come through affection, play or simply doing something together—one of the qualities that may make him especially rewarding to train and work with.**

## HIS EMERGING PERSONALITY

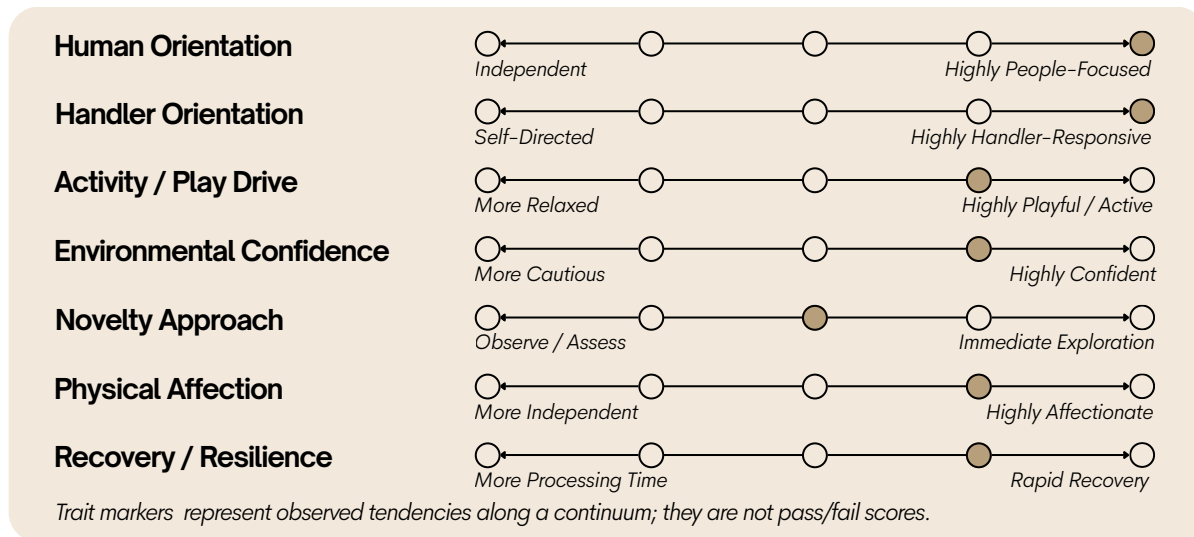
*Quiet Competence*

Sterling doesn't necessarily announce what he's capable of. Instead, he's the puppy who quietly participates until someone suddenly realizes: **"Wait... you're really good at this."** His working style often feels like: **"Show me what we're doing. I'm with you."**

## WHAT WE SAW DURING TEMPERAMENT TESTING

- Very strong handler orientation & excellent responsiveness to human direction
- One of the easiest puppies to guide through structured obstacle exercises
- Strong engagement with toys and play as useful motivation
- Confident engagement with his environment
- Strong curiosity and independent exploration
- Comfortable social engagement with unfamiliar people after orientation
- Very good recovery following novelty
- Good ability to remain connected to the handler while interacting with the environment
- Functional, moderate arousal during structured activities
- Low apparent frustration during problem-solving
- Easy redirection and cooperative task engagement

## TEMPERAMENT TRAIT SNAPSHOT



## HE MAY BE ESPECIALLY WELL-SUITED FOR

- Someone who enjoys training, play and shared activities with their dog
- A family wanting a responsive, affectionate and highly connected companion
- Someone wanting engagement and playfulness without enormous behavioral intensity
- A household interested in continued therapy or assistance-dog aptitude evaluation

## POTENTIAL APTITUDES

Sterling showed several particularly interesting early characteristics for assistance-oriented training, including **strong handler orientation, responsiveness to direction, cooperative task engagement, useful play and social motivation, environmental confidence and relatively low-drama working behavior.** He is one we would especially like to continue watching as he develops.

*As with all puppies, these are early aptitude observations—not a prediction or guarantee of future therapy, service or working suitability.*

## THINGS TO KNOW

During his initial standing Touch Test, Sterling showed some stiffness when elevated and facing away from the handler. He was comfortable with seated/ordinary handling and improved with repetition. This response did not generalize to his other testing, where he showed confident exploration, social comfort and strong cooperative engagement.