

PETS AS THERAPY

The Pets As Therapy Temperament Assessment Test

What to expect from the temperament test for your cat.

Cats need to....

Be willing to explore, but settle quickly in a novel environment.

Why?

Cats need to be confident and interested in their surroundings but also be able to relax in a new environment. The types of environment that PAT cats are expected to enter are very different from their home environments.

Willingly approach and make contact with a stranger.

Why?

Unlike dogs, cats naturally take their time to approach people. PAT cats need to be willing to actively approach and interact with strangers that they meet on visits.

Respond to an approaching stranger and not run away and hide.

Why?

Some cats don't like people to approach them directly. A PAT cat needs to accept an approach from a stranger. It can be very upsetting for a patient or client if an animal rejects their approach.

Enjoy being held by a stranger without signs of fearfulness, anxiety or attempting to escape.

Why?

Being held or restrained is not natural for cats and they often won't accept it readily. All cats have a natural threshold for being held and PAT cats need to accept and enjoy being held and cuddled by a stranger.

Accept and enjoy being stroked.

Why?

Again, cats have a threshold for being stroked or patted. PAT cats need to have a high tolerance of tactile contact with humans.

Be clean, well-groomed, fit and healthy.

Why?

A fit and healthy animal will behave appropriately and will be more willing to accept novel environments and approaches from strangers.

The assessor will also check that your cat's nails are trimmed and you will be required to keep them short for the safety of clients and patients on Pets As Therapy visits.

For further information please contact the Pets As Therapy Head Office, Tel: 01865 671440
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