

Manual for organizations

The Personality Assessment of Domestic Animals
(PADA)

All species



Copyright: International Community of Anthrozoology

Authors:

Christine Olsen (NCofA), Tahira Taquini (NED)

9 Nov 2023

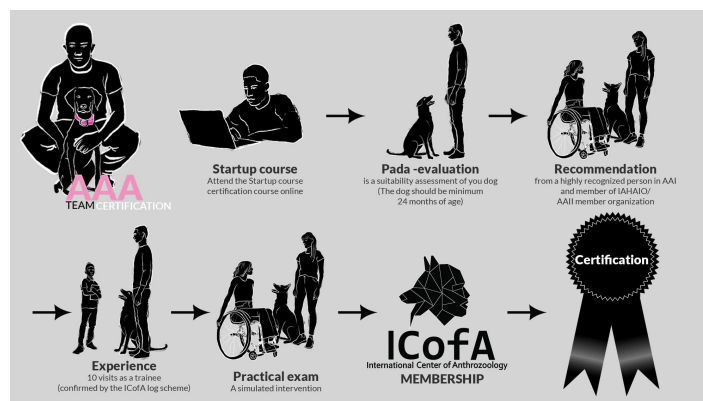
What are we looking for in character traits for animals deployed in AAS?

Generally, we are looking for animals that have enough boldness, are trainable, experience little to no fear or insecurity, and are social towards people and animals, which means that the animal feels comfortable around others, recovers quickly, proceeds to tolerate when they get into a difficult situation and are curious about their surroundings.

International Certification (the PADA certification is not enough)

The International Community of Anthrozoology (ICofA) provides international programs of certification for human-dog teams. It is a common way of certifying human-dog teams with one certificate and exact requirements with all partner countries that decided to join ICofA. You can find associated members on our website: <https://www.icofa-community.com/>

The first step of being a certified team is the PADA test for the dog. If the dog is suitable for AAS work, the team can take other steps of education and certification to work as a volunteer or professional team.



Index

Dogs.....	4
Testing Age.....	4
Requesting Test.....	4
Costs.....	4
Forms to Fill In.....	4
Health Requirements.....	4
Preparation for the Test.....	5
Location.....	5
Resources needed.....	6
General information.....	7
After the test.....	7
Cats.....	8
Testing Age.....	8
Requesting Test.....	8
Costs.....	8
Forms to Fill In.....	8
Preparation for the Test.....	9
Location.....	9
Resources needed.....	9
General information.....	9
After the test.....	9
Horses.....	10
Testing Age.....	10
Requesting Test.....	10
Costs.....	10
Forms to Fill In.....	10
Preparation for the Test.....	10
Location.....	10
Resources needed.....	10
General information.....	11
After the test.....	11
Farm Animals.....	12
Testing Age.....	12
Requesting Test.....	12
Costs.....	12
Forms to Fill In.....	12

Preparation for the Test.....	12
Location.....	12
Resources needed.....	12
General information.....	13
After the test.....	13

Dogs

Testing Age

2 years old or older (independent of breed)

Requesting Test

If you are reading this protocol, presumably you have been in contact with the contact person in your country who assisted you on how to proceed requesting the tests. Once the test is paid and both forms are filled in, you will be registered in the PADA system and the test can be conducted.

Costs

The price of the test purchase fee is 50 Euro for normal/high income countries and 20€ for low income countries, to be purchased directly with ICofA. Please note that each country has different policies regarding the final price (for example hiring the team or renting a location). This is an overview of costs you might expect for executing the PADA test:

PADA test fee	50 € (normal/high income countries) 20€ (low income countries)
Hiring the PADA team to undertake the test (might include traveling costs)	(specify the case in your country) €
Costs location to undertake the PADA test	(specify the case in your country) €
Other costs (specify which, i.e. lunch, drinks, etc.)	(specify the case in your country) €

Forms to Fill In

In order to add you to the PADA system (which makes you eligible to do the test), after the test payment you will be asked to fill in the following forms:

- [MCPQ-R form \(for detailed information about your dog\)](#)
- [Veterinary Check before PADA](#)

Health Requirements

During the test, and while working, the dog must meet the following health requirements.

1. The dog must have current vaccinations. All vaccinations must be documented by a licensed veterinarian in your country. A titer declaration is also valid.

- a. Rabies immunizations are required for dogs as basic. Rabies vaccination documentation should be carried by the handler.
2. The dog should be healthy and free of any signs of disease. The dog should not attend the test (or intervention!) if any of the following conditions occur:
 - a. Leaking nasal discharge
 - b. Leaky discharge from the eyes
 - c. Odd-smelling ears/sediment in the ears
 - d. Vomiting
 - e. Lameness
 - f. Apathy
 - g. Lack of appetite
 - h. Sudden changes in behavior
 - i. Skin problems (rashes, skin changes, skin mycosis)
 - j. Open wounds
 - k. Involved in an accident (dog fight, car accident) - even if the injuries are not visible

Preparation for the Test

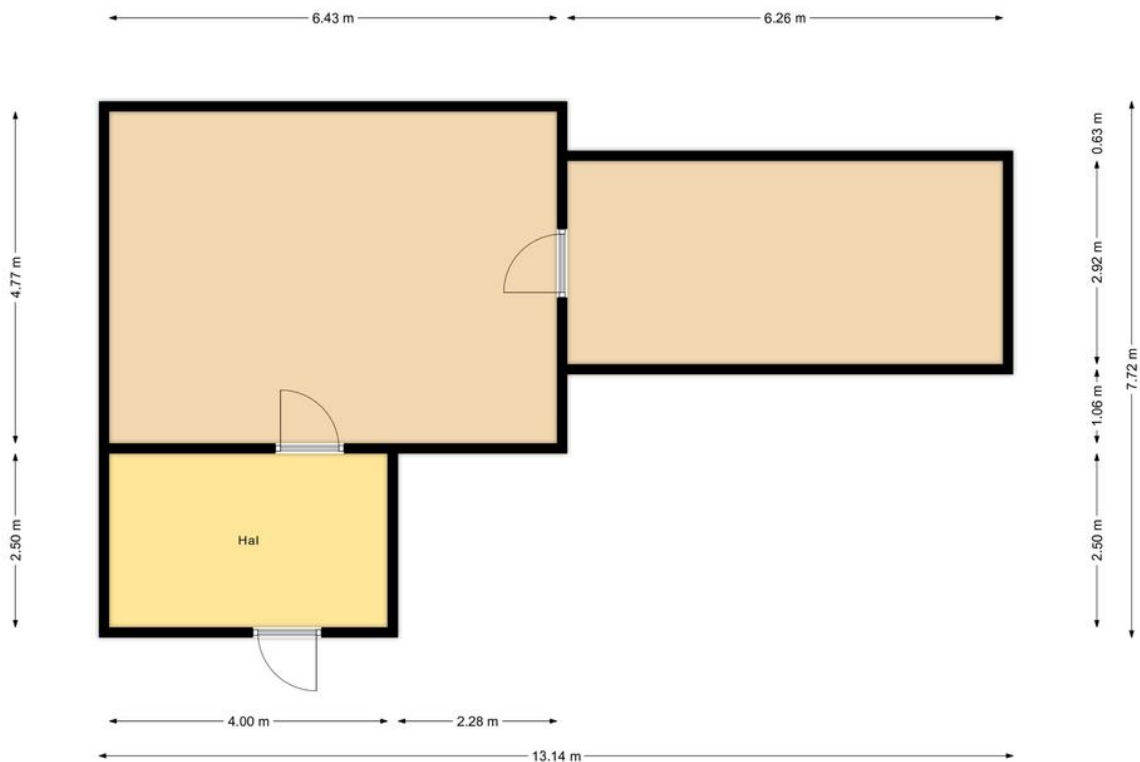
Your PADA team will arrange the necessary material to conduct the test. Nevertheless, as a requester of the test, there are aspects that are your responsibility to provide the team. You will find the list below.

Location

It can be that the PADA team is already familiar with a suitable location. You can always discuss with the PADA team if the location they advise is also suitable for you (perhaps it is too far away, for example, and you might know a suitable location nearby).

Criteria for the location:

- Must be unknown for the dog(s) being tested
- Preferably with stairs (4-10 meters long). Should the location not have stairs, make sure that there is possibility to set up a *foreign substrate* for the dog to walk on (i.e. steps, a surface to jump on, ramp)
- Can be completely booked by you, so no one else walks in the test areas
- 3 indoor spaces
 - 1 hall/smaller room at the entrance of the location (max. 10m²)
 - 1 big room between 30m² and 50m², where chairs and a 1 person's bed can fit
 - 1 corridor, or room which is at least 6m long and 3m wide.
 - NOTE: the stairs can be somewhere inside or outside the location.



Free SD export
floorplanner

Note: the image is a visual representation of how the location can be, indicating the minimum measurement. Please keep the described measurements in mind when choosing the location.

Facilities that might be handy to have in a location for the teams and clients:

- Bathroom
- Parking possibilities
- An extra waiting room where the clients wait while the team discusses the evaluation
- Possibility to prepare coffee and tea

Resources needed

- Foreign substrate (in case no stairs are present. Please check with the team if what you have or think to use is suitable for the test)
- Crutches
- Wheelchair or rollator
- Blanket
- Passing dog
- Dog treats
- Dog rope toy and other toys
- 1 person's bed
- Chipreader

Should you not have the above-listed items, contact the contact person of the team to see if the team can bring the items instead.

General information

The dog must be wearing a collar (normal, fixed collar). The handlers will receive an email with information for the test. Should handlers present themselves with harnesses or other types of collars, the team will ask the handler to switch to a normal leash and normal collar for the test. Otherwise, it will not be possible to conduct the test.

It might be wise that owners bring their own treats anyway in case of allergies, intolerances, or particular diets.

The team will be constituted of 3 PADA professionals (Technician, Leader, and Evaluator) and 2 filmers (in case your team does not make use of 2 filmers, please specify how you usually arrange the filming).

After the test

Up to 2 weeks after the test, the handler will receive:

- Scoring sheet results
- Eventual certificate (if the dog passed)
- Footage recordings (if required)
- (should your team provide anything else, please specify)

In case of *indecisiveness*, the Evaluator will contact the handler within 2 weeks after the test to inform the handler about the result.

In case of not passing the test due to pain, illness, being in heat, or any other variable the team believes might have influenced the dog's behavior, the team might recommend the handler to retest after 6 months. The test must be paid again then.

In case of not passing the test due to non-suitability, remember that PADA does not retain the dog's character to be recommended for further training in Animal Assisted Services. The test result does not dictate whether the dog can be inserted.

Cats

Testing Age

1 year old or older (independent of breed)

Requesting Test

You will find the steps for requesting the test in the [PADA website](#).

Costs

The price of the test purchase fee is 175€ for normal/high income countries and 85€ for low income countries, to be purchased directly with ICofA.

Differently from dogs, you can choose to take the test by yourself. However, we offer three different options:

	Norma/high income countries	Low income countries
Test by yourself	175€ (plus 30€ per extra video submission that do not match the criteria)	85€
Test with online support	175€ + 30€	85€ + 15€
Test with support in person	175€ + Evaluator traveling costs	85€ + Evaluator traveling costs

Based on the service format you choose (by yourself, with online support or with support in person), ICofA will be in contact with you guiding you through each step until you receive the protocol for conducting the test.

Forms to Fill In

Before purchasing the test, you need to:

1. Fill in the Request for PADA Cat Test questionnaire.
2. Purchase the test
3. Fill in the PADA Cat Questionnaire (which ICofA will send you after the payment is done).

Preparation for the Test

Location

1 unfamiliar room (for the cat), minimum 15m². It can be even in your friend's or acquaintances house, if the cat has never been there before.

Resources needed

- Camera/phone to record the test (able to film continuously for approximately 20 minutes)
- Two unfamiliar persons (for the cat) who will help you conduct the test (one who will function as technician to conduct the test with the cat and one to walk in the room).
- Transport mean that the cat is familiar with (crate or backpack)
- One carton box (for the cat)
- A litter box with its usual filling
- Toys that the cat usually likes (preferably toys with a string)
- A place for the person conducting the test to sit

General information

The cat should not be disturbed by other animals or people during the test.

After the test

The test (footage) is to be submitted to ICofA. You will receive feedback on the test and possible results within one month after the test was taken.

In case of passing, should you not have encountered a course for cats in AAI, ICofA offers a complete online course designed for cats.

In case of not passing the test due to pain, illness, being in heat, or any other variable the team believes might have influenced the cat's behavior, the team might recommend the handler to retest after 6 months. The test must be paid again then.

In case of not passing the test due to non-suitability, remember that PADA does not retain the cat's character to be recommended for further training in Animal Assisted Services. The test result does not dictate whether the cat can be inserted.

Horses

Testing Age

2 years old or older (independent of breed)

Requesting Test

Send an email to ICofA at post@icofa-community.com mentioning that you would like to request a Horse PADA Test. ICofA will send you the next steps.

Costs

	Norma/high income countries	Low income countries
Test by yourself	175€ (plus 30€ per extra video submission that do not match the criteria)	85€
Test with online support	175€ + 30€	85€ + 15€
Test with support in person	175€ + Evaluator traveling costs	85€ + Evaluator traveling costs

Forms to Fill In

Preparation for the Test

Location

The test is done in an area where the horse is safe and comfortable and must be the same area where the horse is intended to interact with people. The horse must be in the enclosure at least 10 minutes before the test starts so that they have an opportunity to explore the area before the test starts.

The horse must stay in an enclosure where it is possible to insert a warning triangle and must also be a gate or door to a new area that can be opened so that the horse can move.

Resources needed

- Warning triangle (typically found in the emergency kit for cars)

- Treats that are preferable to the individual that is being tested
- An outer jacket with a hood and zip
- Camera/phone to record the test (able to film continuously for approximately 20 minutes)
- One unfamiliar person (for the horse) who will help you conduct the test (one who will function as technician to conduct the test with the horse)

General information

The horse should not be disturbed by other animals or people during the test.

After the test

The test (footage) is to be submitted to ICofA. You will receive feedback on the test and possible results within one month after the test was taken.

In case of passing, should you not have encountered a course for horses in AAI, ICofA offers a complete online course designed for horses and farm animals.

In case of not passing the test due to pain, illness, being in heat, or any other variable the team believes might have influenced the horse's behavior, the team might recommend the handler to retest after 6 months. The test must be paid again then.

In case of not passing the test due to non-suitability, remember that PADA does not retain the horse's character to be recommended for further training in Animal Assisted Services. The test result does not dictate whether the horse can be inserted.

Farm Animals

Testing Age

1 or 2 years old as a minimum (depending on the species).

Requesting Test

Send an email to ICofA at post@icofa-community.com mentioning that you would like to request a Horse PADA Test. ICofA will send you the next steps.

Costs

	Norma/high income countries	Low income countries
Test by yourself	175€ (plus 30€ per extra video submission that do not match the criteria)	85€
Test with online support	175€ + 30€	85€ + 15€
Test with support in person	175€ + Evaluator traveling costs	85€ + Evaluator traveling costs

Forms to Fill In

Preparation for the Test

Location

The test is done in an area where the horse is safe and comfortable and must be the same area where the horse is intended to interact with people. The horse must be in the enclosure at least 10 minutes before the test starts so that they have an opportunity to explore the area before the test starts.

The horse must stay in an enclosure where it is possible to insert a warning triangle and must also be a gate or door to a new area that can be opened so that the horse can move.

Resources needed

- Warning triangle (typically found in the emergency kit for cars)
- Treats that are preferable to the individual that is being tested

- An outer jacket with a hood and zip
- Camera/phone to record the test (able to film continuously for approximately 20 minutes)
- One unfamiliar person (for the horse) who will help you conduct the test (one who will function as technician to conduct the test with the horse)

General information

Surgical interventions, such as removal of claws, horns, pulling of teeth, castration, etc. with the intention of reducing the risk of injury or changing the animal's behavior must not take place in accordance with IAHAIO's guidelines. The same applies to medication to modify behavior.

The horse should not be disturbed by other animals or people during the test.

After the test

The test (footage) is to be submitted to ICofA. You will receive feedback on the test and possible results within one month after the test was taken.

In case of passing, should you not have encountered a course for horses in AAI, ICofA offers a complete online course designed for farm animals.

In case of not passing the test due to pain, illness, being in heat, or any other variable the team believes might have influenced the animal's behavior, the team might recommend the handler to retest after 6 months. The test must be paid again then.

In case of not passing the test due to non-suitability, remember that PADA does not retain the animal's character to be recommended for further training in Animal Assisted Services. The test result does not dictate whether the animal can be inserted.