****Connecting Canines Therapy Dog Program

**Off-Leash Endorsement Examination**

Handler Name:

Canine Name:

Date:

1st Examiner: 2nd Examiner:

Date:

**○ This team has passed the Connecting Canines examination for Off-Leash Endorsement.**

**○ This team has passed the Connecting Canines examination for Retrieve and Release Endorsement**

**○ This team did NOT pass the Connecting Canines examination for Off-Leash Endorsement.**

1st Examiner Signature:

2nd Examiner Signature:

Date:

**Scoring Key**

P = Present Dog meets expectations for this behavior/skill deeming it appropriate to participate in activities  
at this time.

NP = Not Present Dog does not demonstrate or approximate this behavior/skill.

*Emergent scores are not permitted for any portion of the Off-Leash Exam.*

*Determine dog and handler’s overall ability to perform safely and confidently as a team off-leash. Team must score P on ALL test items. Optional Retrieve and Release endorsement to be performed only if handler answers “yes” on page 1.*

**Part I: Skills Assessment**

1. Have handler ask dog to sit. Does dog stay in place in a sit for 30 seconds?
2. Have handler ask the dog to down in each of the following locations. Does the dog stay down in place with appropriate commitment for 30 seconds in each location?

**○** On bare floor

**○** On Mats

**○** In Ex-Pen

**○** Under a table

**○** Next to a chair

**○** With handler facing away

**○** With handler walking away and returning

**○** With handler stepping over dog 3 times

**○** While approached within 6 ft. by a motor disabled person

**○** While approached within 6 ft. by a person with a mobility aid

1. Did dog move confidently with handler from place to place between stays?
2. Have handler ask dog to down and stay, then move 25 ft. from dog and return. Does dog display appropriate calmness and commitment to stay when at a distance from the handler?
3. Have handler recall dog. Does dog recall quickly and with commitment?
4. Have handler ask dog to down and stay. Produce a sudden noise at a distance from dog (e.g. sharp hand clap, dropped item, etc.). Does dog display appropriate ability to adjust to surprise while remaining committed to the down stay?
5. Have handler ask dog to sit or down and stay, then move 25 ft. from dog. Have handler call dog, then, once dog is committed to moving, instruct dog to halt in place. Dog may sit, down, or stand. Did dog halt quickly and wait for further guidance from handler?
6. Have handler ask dog to down and stay. Examiner or assistant will approach and calmly pet and talk to dog? Does dog appropriately accept attention from a person while remaining committed to the down stay?

**Part II: Affect Assessment**

1. Did the team enter the exam area and approach the exam with appropriate composure and confidence?
2. Does handler manage dog well and offer appropriate level of support and guidance?
3. Does handler project a sense of confidence and partnership in working with dog?
4. Did dog and handler give the overall impression of teamwork?
5. Did dog show the ability to remain focused on or refocus on handler?
6. Did dog display any excessive stress/calming signals? If YES, describe:

**Part III: OPTIONAL Retrieve and Release**

Put an object down or have handler throw an object suitable for retrieving. Have handler ask dog to retrieve the object, return to the handler with it, and release it to the handler. Is dog able to retrieve and return with an object? Does dog safely and willingly release the object to the handler?