ALAPAHA BULLDOG REGISTRY'S STABILITY APTITUDE TEST

- **THE CANINE MUST BE 6 MONTHS OLD (RECOMMENDED AGE IS 12 MONTHS OLD)**
- **ALL TESTS MUST BE DONE IN ORDER**
- **MUST MOVE ONTO THE NEXT TEST WHETHER PASS OR FAIL**
- **HANDLER OR TESTER CAN STOP AT ANYTIME**
- **HANDLER CAN SKIP ANY SPECIFIC TEST, IT WILL BE CONSIDERED A FAIL**
- **EVALUATOR WILL GIVE THE HANDLER 3 CHANCES TO PASS EACH INDIVIDUAL TEST BEFORE MOVING ONTO THE NEXT TEST**
- **EVALUATOR WILL INSPECT HANDLER EQUIPMENT AND TESTING EQUIPMENT BEFORE EACH TEST IS PERFORMED**

A. Test situation I: Intelligence and Approachability

HANDLER EQUIPMENT: Leash no longer than 6 feet and a flat collar.
TEST/TESTER EQUIPMENT : 4 cones

This test is observed by an ABR evaluator that's unknown to the canine. This test is to observe the Canine's willingness to please the handler and to recognize relationship and bond to the handler. The handler takes the dog through a short session of leash exercises. There will be 4 cones or Xs set up in a square, each cone is 10ft apart. The evaluator will observe this test from 10-15ft away from the 4th cone and notifies the handler when to start. The Evaluator will also notify the handler of each step throughout the test.

STEP 1 - The first object is to walk completely around the outside cones all the way to the start positioning with a relaxed leash..

STEP 2 - The owner will give a SIT command once back at the beginning cone. Once done, the canine must hold the position for 10 seconds. Then the handler and the canine will move to the next cone.

STEP 3 - At the this cone is when the handler gives a sit or preferably a lay command, once the position is held for 10 secs then the handler and the canine will move onto the next cone.

STEP 4 - The handler must give a stay command and only the handler proceeds to the next cone and then does a COME command. The canine must come to the handler. The handler and canine proceeds to the next cone once the handler gains full control of the canine.

STEP 5 - At the this cone is where the ABR evaluator will be standing and waiting. The handler and canine must come to the evaluator where the handler will shake hands with the evaluator and introduce themselves and the canine. The evaluator will also introduce themselves and explain the purpose of this test and will also give advice for the following tests. This conversation is important, this will help handlers with the oncoming tests and it allows the evaluator to see the type of temperament the canine has while it waits patiently.

FAILED TEST – FAILURE TO COMPLY TO HANDLER'S COMMANDS OR ATTACKING THE EVALUATOR.

B. Test situation 2: Prey Drive

HANDLER EQUIPMENT: Leash. Harness or agitation collar (flat collar over 2.5" wide) preferred. Flat collars under 2" wide prohibited. Correction collars prohibited. *All equipment must be inspected and approved by tester prior to the exercise*

TEST/TESTER EQUIPMENT: A variety of "prey items." The "prey item" is to be agreed upon by both the handler and the tester and should be appropriate for the individual dog. The "prey item" can be a rag, rope, tug, flirt pole, sleeve, or anything deemed safe and appropriate to be a "bite item" for this exercise. A nearby Helper with a time piece or stopwatch will also be needed. Helper is to be out of the dogs leash range, and outside of the area the cones mark off.

This is a test where the evaluator observed the tendency to compete for objects. The handler and canine will stand between two cones where the the tester will stand between the other 2 cones 10ft away. The tester attempts to engage the dog using rag, rope, bite pillow, blanket/sheet, or flirt pole. The dog must become prey aggressive and want to engage. The tester provokes the canine a little longer, suggested time of 1-2 mins, and then let the canine bite onto the simulated prey. The tester and The canine then engages into a tug of war match. The tester must try to win the match for 15secs. The tester then let's go of the simulated prey and

let the canine claim it. The handler can give verbal praise or commands to the canine freely throughout this test.

FAILED TEST – FAILURE TO ENGAGE IN TUG OF WAR, FAILURE TO MEET TIME EXPECTATION, ATTACKING THE TESTER AND NOT THE PREY DRIVE ITEM.

C. Test situation 3: Nerves Evaluation

HANDLER EQUIPMENT: Flat collar or harness. Leash, 4-6 feet. Helper to hold the canine during beginning portion of exercise. We will refer to this helper as Help1 for the duration of the exercise.

TEST/TESTER EQUIPMENT: Fencing, paper figures, blind, additional helper for inside of blind. We will refer to this helper as Help2 for the duration of the exercise.

The dog is held on a 4ft or 6ft leash by the Tester or another handler (Handler #2), and the initial handler (Handler #1) runs away from the dog with a 50ft lead attached to the dog, while calling it, into a quarantined path where a number of life-size paper figures of people are placed in a small area roughly 40ft x 10ft. As soon as the handler is at the end of 40ft path, he/she stops, and the dog is turned loose within the quarantined area. It's important that tester/ handler 2 does not follow the canine and that handler #1 DOES NOT pull on the 50ft lead, that lead is only for emergency situations in case the dog tries to leave the quarantined area. When the dog is in the middle of the paper figures another paper figure is suddenly pulled/pushes up in front of the canine by Tested #2 at the cue of Tested #1. In most cases the dog perceives this as a threatening situation, while at the same time it is highly motivated to reach the handler. The dog is allowed to act aloof while barking, growling, and to be avoidant of the figure. The tester ideally is looking for a dog that is unfazed and ignores the distraction and continues to their Handler.. The dog should not attack the figurine as it is not making any threat to the dog. The goal is for the Canine to come to the handler being called without attacking non threatening objects. Once the canine is to the handler and the handler secures the canine then this test is complete.

D. Test situation 4: Reaction to unidentified object, footing, and loud noises

HANDLER EQUIPMENT: Flat collar. Leash under 6 feet.
TEST/TESTER EQUIPMENT: Timepiece or stopwatch. 2 Cones. Quarantined area from Test C, with paper figures removed. Umbrella. Tarp (covering 5'x5' area.) Chicken wire (covering 5'X5' area.) 4 blinds set up in quarantined area, allowing a walking path for Handler and canine. 4 Helpers, each with one of the following distraction items; pots and pans to bang together, a piece of wood and a hammer to strike it with, a bell to ring, a trumpet or other wind powered noise maker, a phone alarm clock, a siren (may be simulated), a drum, or any other loud items to bang together such as wooden boards or metal bars/pipes. (Items must be ABR approved before beginning test.)

Station 1 - The handler and canine starts at the designated start cone. The handler and canine will proceed to and stop 5ft in front of a sitting tester. That tester will then open an umbrella and keep it opened for 5 seconds and then close it. The canine should not run from the umbrella. Once complete, the tester signals the handler to proceed to station 2.
Station 2 - The handler and canine then proceeds to a clear tarp that's 5ft long on the ground.. The canine must walk completely across it.. The handler is allowed to encourage and praise the canine but must not pull the leash. The canine should not avoid the footing. Once complete then the handler and canine proceeds to Station 3.
Station 3 - The handler and canine then proceeds to the 5ft of chicken wire laying on the ground. The canine must walk completely across it.. The handler is allowed to encourage and praise the canine but must not pull the leash. The canine should not avoid walking over the chicken wire. Once completed then the tester notices the handler that the can have a 15 second break for physical and verbal praise before proceeding to Station 4.
Station 4 - The handler and canine then walks with the dog into the 40Ft x 10ft path within the quarantined area but without the life sized figures. Along the path is 4 hidden testers (Helper 1, Helper 2, Helper 3, Helper 4)

are behind the quarantine so they can't be seen. The handler will walk through the path slowly with the canine and the ABR evaluator notifies when each helper starts their distraction by calling "One" "Two" "Three" and "Four", As the dog passes, with their designated equipment for 5 secs. At this time the handler should slow their pace for a few seconds and then proceeds through the path again at their normal pace.. The dog's reaction to the noise, and particularly the dog's recovery immediately afterwards, is noted by the tester. The goal is to make it past the 4 noises within appropriate time. The handler is allowed to sooth the dog with praise but NOT allowed to pull on the leash or collar at anytime to the finishing point. The test is competed when the Handler reaches the end of the path within one minute of when they started. The handler must praise the canine for completion of the course.

FAILED TEST – RUNNING AWAY FROM UMBRELLA, NOT COMPLETELY WALKING OVER TARP OR THE CHICKEN WIRE, NOT WALKING THROUGH PATH, RETREATING INSIDE THE PATH, A STRONG AVOIDANCE BEHAVIOR, ATTEMPTING TO ATTACK THE TESTER, ATTACKING ANY HELPER,, OR TRYING TO RUN THROUGH PATH IN A FEARFUL MANNER.

E. Test situation 5: Reaction to an approaching threat

HANDLER EQUIPMENT:: Leash. Harness or agitation collar (flat collar over 2.5" wide) preferred. Flat collars under 2" wide prohibited. Correction collars prohibited. *All equipment must be inspected and approved by tester prior to the exercise*
TEST/TESTER EQUIPMENT:: 2 cones. Blind. Sled or cart and a figure of a human propped up on it. Figure of human may be the top half of a mannequin with a mask or a paper figure with empathized eyes staring straight ahead, or any type of human like prop. Rope or chain to pull the cart. Helper to pull the rope or chain attached to sled or cart.

A paper figure, or mannequin, human type prop, or the top half of a person with a mask on the figure, is mounted on a sled or cart.. The eyes of the figure are emphasized and appear to be staring straight ahead. The handler stands with the dog by his or her side between the 2 cones that's spaced 5 ft apart. The tester cues the helper to suddenly pull or push the sled/car into view to emerge about 20 Ft in front of the dog. The sled is then pulled or pushed slowly towards the dog. The Dog should

experience this situation as threatening. The dog must NOT retreat behind the handler. The dog can partially retreat next to the handler but must re-engage into the perceived threat. The handler is allowed to give commands. The "threat" should stop 5-10ft in front of the dog. Praising or encouraging the dog for protective behavior by the handler is acceptable and is considered must for this test. The goal is for the dog to stay alert and staying ready to engage the "threat".

FAILED TEST – RETREATING BEHIND THE HANDLER OR HAVING A STRONG FEARFUL REACTION.

F. Test situation 6: Threatening the handler

HANDLER EQUIPMENT: Leash. Harness or agitation collar (flat collar over 2.5" wide) preferred. Flat collars under 2" wide prohibited. Correction collars prohibited. *All equipment must be inspected and approved by tester prior to the exercise*

TEST/TESTER EQUIPMENT: Protective bite sleeve. Clatter stick or whip. Wall of a building, gazebo, line of trees or hedges, or another structure that can be used similarly. Blind.

The test is performed as a staged threat to the handler by the tester, who wears a protective sleeve with a whip or Clatter Stick. Tester is allowed to yell at the dog and handler. The tester will signal when the handler can begin. Once the tester does then the handler walks with the dog along the wall of a building, simulating a casual walk with their dog, when the Tester rushes out of their designated hiding area and begin agitating by using body language and vocalization to "threaten" the handler and the dog. The tester must not lay a hand on the dog or the handler throughout the test. Once the tester approaches the handler and dog, The tester then completes a complete circle around the handler and dog staying 3-5ft out of the leash distance while performing a realistic threatening behavior.. The tester must make this threat very believable and react to the reaction of the canine. The canine must stay by the side or in front of the handler. The dog is allowed to retreat momentarily to the tester's behaviors but MUST recover quickly with an alert and protective behavior. The handler must encourage and praise the canine for any type of protective behavior. A dog MUST NOT RETREAT.

G. Test situation 7: Protection on call

HANDLER EQUIPMENT: Leash. Harness or agitation collar (flat collar over 2.5" wide) preferred. Flat collars under 2" wide prohibited. Correction collars prohibited. *All equipment must be inspected and approved by tester prior to the exercise*
TEST/TESTER EQUIPMENT: Full Protection Suit is highly preferred. Minimum requirements to preform this test is bite Pants and Bite Sleeve. Test will not be done with just a bite sleeve.

This test is performed by a staged mugging from the tester wearing preferably a full bite suit. A bite sleeve and bite pants are acceptable but not preferred. The test is to simulate an "attack" and the tester judges the dog's reaction to the "attack" on the handler. He handler and dog will walk down a path and an "Attacker" will jump out and surprise the handler and the dog. The dog is expected to act aggressively and protect the handler from the "attacker". The "attacker" will the push forward towards the handler to the point of putting their free hand on the handler and/or going in for a "bear Hug" maneuver.. The dog must engage the tester by protecting the handler. The handler must drop the leash and the dog engage with the "Attacker". The dog must be engaged with the "Attacker" for minimum 10 seconds. The dog must then continue to protect the handler until the tester cues the Handler to call off the dog or "attacker" gives up and lets the canine keep the sleeve. The dog is allowed to let loose and re-bite, but only if the re-bite is within a few seconds of releasing (the dog is allowed to do this multiple times throughout the test).

H. Test situation 8: Reaction to extremely Loud Noise

HANDLER EQUIPMENT: Flat collar. Leash. Dog favorite toy such as rope, ball, etc.
TEST/TESTER EQUIPMENT: Starter pistol. Firecrackers such as black cats, or any other that will make a loud noise for an extended period of time, and/or air horn.

The dog's reaction to an unusual load noise is tested by the repeated firing of a gun, a pack of firecrackers, or repeated blow horn.

First while the handler is playing with the dog with a rope, Towel, or playing fetch, and later with the dog sitting, laying, or standing by the handler's side. The extremely loud noise must be executed no shorter than 15ft away and no farther than 25 ft away. The dog can retreat at first but must recover immediately. The dog must NOT retreat the second time.

FAILED TEST – 1st ATTEMPT:COMPLETELY RETREATING WITHOUT RECOVERING.

2nd ATTEMPT: RETREATING BEHIND THE HANDLER OR BEING FEARFUL

Canine characteristics tested throughout the ABR's Breed Specific Test.

1- Courage: the ability to overcome fear. Courage can only be interpreted in situations where the dog actually became frightened.

2- Sharpness: the tendency to react with aggression. The tendency to use aggression in order to reach a certain goal. .

3- Defense drive: the tendency to defend itself or its handler. In most cases defense is combined with aggression. However a dog may show defensive tendencies without being aggressive, and aggressive behavior is not always combined with defensive tendencies.

4- Prey drive: the willingness to engage in competitive games such as "tug of war" or the willingness/urge to catch the rag at the end of a flirt pole, also termed competitive drive or social competitive drive. This encompasses everything from bite sports, to hunting, to playing fetch, to tug of war in your backyard. Even if your dog doesn't have an intent to kill, it Still may have prey drive. Prey drive is extremely important when it comes to sport and/or working dogs.

5- Nerve stability: the appropriateness of the dog's reaction to a certain situation. This includes the dog's ability to adapt to various types of situations, to concentrate when highly aroused or in a situation of

conflict, as well as its ability to relax and to overcome a frightening situation. A frightened dog could one day become an liability to the owner.

6- Reaction to extremely loud noises: the characteristic goal for the canine is to NOT show everlasting fear without recovery. The canine must overcome any initial fear to an unknown noise. The canine must be courageous in any scenario.

7- Temperament or energy level: the degree of liveliness. Dogs with high temperament are more responsive to all types of stimuli.

8- Hardness: the lack of a lasting effect of a pleasant or frightening experience. A dog with a low mental toughness or lack of confidence is very easily affected by corrections and/or a frightening experience.

9- Ability to cooperate: the tendency to be influenced by the handler without being given a direct command or sign. Another often used term is willingness to please the owner or handler.

10-Stability: the dog's willingness to make contact with people without any aggression towards the unknown individual. Stability is extremely important when living in urban areas.

SAT NOVICE (SATN) – completion of 2 tests, earns 25 championship points for title

SAT INTERMEDIATE (SATI) – completion of 4 tests, earns 25 championship points for title + 15 additional points

SAT ELITE (SATE) – completion of 6 tests, earns 25 championship points for title + 25 additional points

SAT MASTERS (SATM) – completion of all 8 tests, earns 25 championship points for title + 50 additional points