

TEMPERAMENT TESTING 101



What is a Temperament Test, and why is it necessary?

A Temp Test is essentially a single day of daycare, during which our staff slowly introduces your dog to the Pack, as well as our facility and our routine. We closely observe your dog (adorned with a special bandana with his name) to determine his comfort level in group play, his general behavior, activity level, and willingness to submit to human pack leadership. At the end of the day, our staff collectively decides if the Paw-Plex or the Brat Pack is the best fit for your dog.

The Temp Test is also beneficial for your dog in that it reassures him that Boxers is a temporary arrangement because you pick him up at the end of the day. So, the next time he arrives for boarding or daycare, he is relaxed and confident that you will once again be returning to get him.



When are Temp Tests given, and what do they cost?

Temp Tests are given Monday thru Thursday at the Paw-Plex on Washington Blvd., by appointment only. You may drop off and pick up during normal daycare hours (7am-7pm), but we insist on having Temp Test dogs at least by 9 am, and until 3 pm since the objective is to observe your dog throughout the daily routine, including our noon naptime. Temp Tests cost the same as a single day of daycare at Boxers Bed and Biscuits. Please refer to our comprehensive Price List on our website.

What does it mean if my dog fails the Temp Test?

It does NOT mean that you have a bad dog or that Boxers cannot provide you with pet-care services. It simply means that your dog (1) may prefer the company of humans rather than other canines, (2) may be too old or unwell to handle the physical romping and rolling of the large, group-play environment, (3) may prefer a slower-paced, quieter facility to relax, (4) may require a spay/neuter to quell excessive mounting behavior, or (5) may just need a little extra training or socialization before he is ready for the Paw-Plex Pack.

The good news is... if your dog does fail the Temp Test at the Paw-Plex, the Brat Pack is likely the best place for him. At this facility, our staff provides FREE enrichment services to work on the individual needs of your pet (i.e. excessive humping, barking or herding, fears of strangers or other dogs, and even housebreaking). If your goal is to utilize the Paw-Plex at some point, the Brat Pack team can help reach that goal.

If you are fairly certain that your dog is best suited for the Brat Pack, you may skip the Temp Test altogether and make boarding/daycare arrangements there since Temp Tests are not required of Brat Pack guests.



Does once-approved mean forever-approved at Paw-Plex?

It does not, unfortunately. A dog may do very well in the group-play setting for several months, or even years. Then one day something changes. Perhaps the dog just gets older and less tolerant of other dogs. Or the dog sustains an injury or develops arthritis that makes him vulnerable to pain worsened by rough play. Quite frankly, dogs experience various stages in their lives just as humans do, that will alter their activity level, endurance and desire to interact. Our staff is trained to recognize these changes and make recommendations to pet owners that will benefit the pet. Please feel free to contact us if you have additional questions regarding Temperament Testing.