



CARAT

Ethology of the individual

Owner:

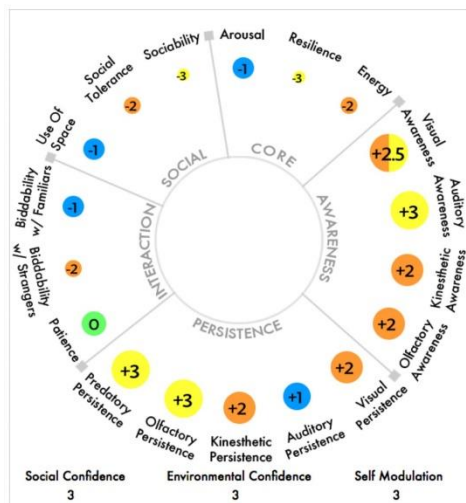
Dog Name: Maggie

Breed: Mixed Breed **Sex:** M **En:** S **Age:** 3y

Assessor: Cindy Knowlton

Location: See Spot Grin

Purpose of eval? K9 / DETECTION / SERVICE / PTSD / VET / SAR /
AGILITY / OBEDIENCE / HUNT---FIELD / SHELTER / RESCUE / FOSTER
/ KIDS / HEARING / ASSISTANCE / GUIDE / MILITARY **COMPANION**



YOUR DOG'S CARAT PROFILE

This CARAT profile is based on observed behaviors that have been scored after assessment and subsequent video review.

This interpretation of this CARAT profile is meant to help you understand your dog's behavior, sensitivities, preferences and possible challenges, in his interactions with people. While CARAT profiles reflect the behaviors your dog demonstrated in this specific evaluation, please understand that your dog may behave differently under other conditions, including with other dogs and animals.

OVERALL SNAPSHOT

Based on this evaluation Maggie is a calm home body who keeps to herself. She can be easily distracted and overwhelmed when working, especially in new environments and social situations. Maggie enjoys sniffing and chase games in predictable environments where she feels safe.

AROUSAL & RESILIENCE This is about your dog's reactions & recovery

If Maggie becomes excited or upset, you may see her tail wagging quickly. She may whine at times and yield space. She may become more vigilant about what she sees and hears. Maggie may become more sensitive to touch when she's excited or upset.

In exciting or upsetting situations, Maggie needs you to find a quiet, familiar place where she has a prolonged period of time to recover (30-45 minutes.) Having a familiar comfort crate that includes bedding and other items she's already familiar with nearby will help. You can begin by familiarizing her with it in the home, where she feels safe. She enjoys sniffing, so she may find that hunting for treats a rewarding activity to engage her in while she's recovering.

SENSORY SENSITIVITY & PERSISTENCE

Based on this evaluation Maggie has a strong visual interest, especially in things that move. She also takes in a great deal of her world with her nose. While she's also very interested in what she hears and needs strong signals to pull her attention away, she needs even stronger signals and often times needs to be removed when she is fixated on what she sees or smells in order to refocus her. Maggie is often concerned about new things and new places. Her interests combined with her worry often make work or learning difficult for her as she can be easily distracted in new environments.

Strengths:

- Maggie's strong visual and auditory skills makes communication with a combination of hand gestures and verbal commands easier for her.
- Playing games that allow her to use her keen sniffing skills in familiar environments will be enjoyable for her.

Challenges:

- Maggie's strong predatory tendencies make learning or working difficult for her. Special precautions should be taken near children or other animals. Removing her from the area when she is fixated on them is key, especially when there is also noise involved.
- Maggie's sensitivity to touch should be appreciated. She may object to wearing equipment, being groomed, touched or restrained. She may find various surfaces difficult to walk on and need alternatives that she feels more comfortable negotiating. This sensitivity can be misleading however, because she can show interest in touching things on her own terms and persist in interacting through touch. Special attention should be paid to allow Maggie to interact through touch when she wants to, and to avoid touch interactions when she is not.

HOME ENVIRONMENT

The ideal home environment for Maggie is one that is quiet both inside and outside of the house. Indoors she would benefit from a quiet space to call her own, where she can retreat and relax when she feels stressed or overwhelmed. Adding a white noise machine to her quiet space during busier times might help her relax. Establishing predictable routines within the home that include feeding and exercise times as well as a protocol Maggie knows well as guests come and go will benefit her. If walking on specific surfaces are troublesome for her, adding throw rugs or offering her alternative routes might be helpful. Due to Maggie's predatory nature, caution should be taken if there are other small animals in the home.

If Maggie has a yard, protecting her from constant vehicle or foot traffic will benefit her when she's outdoors. Consider visual barriers or a privacy fence to keep her comfortable in the yard. If walks are necessary, Maggie will benefit from a routine path that helps her predict what will happen in the environment around her. After a walk Maggie should be given some down time in her quiet space to recover. Consider whether walks are truly necessary, as they may prove to be stressful for Maggie.

Because she's a home body, Maggie will benefit most from having a familiar pet sitter come to the home when you're away, rather than boarding her. If a new pet sitter is necessary, take the time to introduce the person to Maggie well ahead of time, allowing for several positive experiences, to be certain Maggie is comfortable when the time comes to leave her.

OUT & ABOUT

New environments and social settings can be difficult for Maggie, so special considerations should be made to keep her world as routine and predictable as possible. When car rides are a must, consider crating Maggie and constructing visual barriers to help her settle as she travels.

You might consider routine car rides to your veterinarian's office which include hunting games when you arrive and don't require Maggie to actually enter the practice so that she is less stressed when a veterinary visit becomes necessary. Working with veterinary staff who can offer Maggie multiple positive experiences and require as little restraint as possible is ideal. Scheduling vet appointments during quieter times at the clinic and asking to be put directly into the same exam room when you arrive might be helpful. If one is available you might also consider a mobile veterinarian who can come to your home as an alternative.

If grooming is required, it would be beneficial to have a skilled groomer who can offer patience, minimal restraint and lots of positive experiences come to your home.

Due to the unpredictability of social interactions at dog parks and Maggie's predatory nature it is recommended that Maggie play at home with you instead.

SOCIAL INTERACTIONS

When interacting with people, Maggie may need to be prompted with treats. She may hesitate at first, then approach and sniff, then disengage. While Maggie is comfortable with people she knows well, she needs repeated successful exposures to a new person to build her confidence. Maggie prefers not to be petted or snuggled. If she is reached for Maggie will likely become more actively avoidant. This may include turning away from, offering a paw or alternate body part, or go belly up.

Maggie needs to you advocate for her by giving her time and space to approach new people as she feels safe or permission to choose not to interact at all, and by preventing people from reaching for her and providing a quiet safe place where she can retreat when she feels overwhelmed by social pressure.

TRAINING/BEHAVIOR/PERFORMANCE CHALLENGES

Maggie will benefit from working with a confident, quiet, skilled & patient individual who is positive, clear and consistent, and who she knows well. Offering a combination of visual gestures and verbal cues will benefit Maggie. She is easily distracted and may need prompting to reconnect. She can be easily pressured and can become overwhelmed during training sessions. She may hesitate before choosing to comply, so it will be important to give her time to process and make decisions. Setting her up for success and allowing her to discover the solution in her own time will make for solid learning and build her confidence. Physical correction training is not in her best interest.

When working with a stranger, the use of food or lures can create additional pressure and she may show a conflicted response. The extra cues she need to prompt her to reconnect after distraction may also add additional pressure. Giving her the time she needs to make a decision is important, as is respecting her choice not to comply, but it would be easier on Maggie if she did not have to work for strangers.

If the need for training classes arises it is recommended that a professional trainer be hired to come to your home, or that you pursue online training that can be done from the comfort of your own home.

Maggie should not be considered a candidate for performance competitions.

CAUTIONS & CONCERNS *Please carefully consider these areas of your dog's behavior:*

- Maggie lacks environmental confidence. She'll be more comfortable with routine and in familiar, predictable environments.
- After outings or when Maggie gets stressed, give her the opportunity to recover in a quiet familiar place that she knows no one will bother her.
- Maggie's prey drive is strong. Be cautious near children or other animals. Use visual barriers in their presence or avoid them altogether.
- Maggie is not especially interested in interacting with people. Give her the space and time she needs to adapt and avoid social gatherings where you cannot orchestrate positive experiences for her. When necessary use her familiar quiet space so that she can relax. Avoid people reaching for her or petting her.
- Maggie can be easily overwhelmed and distracted when learning new things. Offer patience and consistency. Use clear visual and auditory cues when working with her.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- One way to build Maggie's environmental confidence is by giving her the choice to join you when you check out an object that she's concerned about. When Maggie shows concern about a specific object leave her where she is as you approach the object to check it out. She may choose to join you in checking it out, which will begin to diminish her concern. If she chooses not to, do not pressure her by asking her to join you or lure her with treats. She's simply telling you she can't. Let it be.
- Maggie's social confidence can be built using **Treat Retreat**.
- Consider the online version of the **Connection, Cooperation and Control** course, which can help build Maggie's confidence through volitional learning and discovering that she can rely on you to help her negotiate the world around her.



CARAT Assessor Signature

Cindy Knowlton

CARAT Assessor Name (print)

9/3/18

Date