

Evaluation Reminders

- Be prepared to tell your evaluator your animal's stress signs, and anything else they should know, e.g., you have knee problems and can't get down with your animal, or your animal does something that looks like it's stressed when it isn't.
- Roleplay as much as possible as if you are on a visit. Act warm and have fun. Your evaluator will love it and your animal won't become stressed.
- Your animal should always be within reach so you can practice PETS (Presence, Eye contact, Touch and Speech) throughout your evaluation.
- Practice YAYABA (You Are Your Animal's Best Advocate) the entire time. When your evaluator speaks oddly to your animal, tell them how your animal likes to be spoken to; when your evaluator handles your animal awkwardly, show them how your animal likes to be petted. When your evaluator hugs your animal, ask them to do it gently.

If three people petting your animal at once will get it too excited, ask them to do it one at a time. Every time someone touches your animal, tell them how to do it nicely. YOU are being evaluated, not just your animal.

- When your animal approaches someone, especially someone that's seated and extending their arms, ensure that it doesn't jump up on them.
- When walking your animal, maintain the mindset that you are demonstrating loose leash heeling to your evaluator.
- In the neutral dog exercise, keep your eyes on your animal, and draw its attention toward the seated person you'll be visiting as you walk toward them. Walk your animal (not yourself) straight to them so it focuses on them and not the neutral dog.
- Never let go of your leash. Ever.

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