

**TEST OF TEMPERAMENT:** It is compulsory to all individuals (after 12 months of age) in order to obtain a registered championship title. All champions must have a certificate of approval at the temperament test. This sort of test is made at all specialty shows. It is optional at general shows, up to the judge's will, provided it is public and takes place outside the show ring. The trial includes:

- 1) Attack with a stick. The dog is supposed to attack in front of the handler, without being coached, and the exhibitor or handler will remain in his position. It is forbidden to touch or beat the dog.
- 2) Shooting test. There will be fired blanks at a distance of 5 meters from the dog. The dog should express attention, show self-confidence and self-assurance.
- 3) During all performance in the ring the judge will analyze the behavior and temperament of the dog, paying attention to his expression. During the test the following should be observed: a) dislike of the animal to strangers. b) The self-assurance, courage, determination and braveness of each individual.

At this time Outrageous Shadow Filas is aware of 3 opportunities to participate in a FCI type temperament test. These are through the FBA, FBCA, the Texas Working Weekend, and the April Working Weekend.

Below is a copy of the FBCA Temperament Test so that you may have an idea of the different type situations that may be set up to carry out the intended requirements of the FCI standard.

The Fila Brasileiro Club of America  
[www.thefbca.com](http://www.thefbca.com)

**The FBCA temperament test is composed of 6 stations.**

**Stage 1:** neutral strangers: Dog and owner approach a non-aggressive group of people and engage in brief conversation. They may shake hands or just chat a moment. The dog is not touched nor spoken to. The dog is expected to remain alert, but not try to savagely attack a non-aggressive person.

**Stage 2** hidden noise: a can of rocks (or something similar) is shaken from behind a tree (or other obstacle) so that it remains hidden from the dog. The dog is expected to notice and alert to the noise.

**Stage 3** uneven footing-- the dog is expected to walk with the owner across a tarp or wire grid placed on the ground without hesitation, showing willingness to follow the owner over unsure footing

**Stage 4** umbrella pop: this shows a response to an unexpected visual stimulus, the umbrella is suddenly opened a few feet from the dog and is then placed in the ground. The dog is allowed to startle, but must recover and be willing to approach the umbrella. Ideally the dog will be willing to touch the umbrella-- a

dog with strong temperament may try to attack the umbrella (or occasionally the person behind the umbrella). This will not be penalized, but please don't let your dog bite the umbrella person!

**Stage 5** gunshots: A shot is fired from a few yards from the dog; there are 2 shots, one as the dog approaches, and one as the dog leaves. The dog can startle but must recover. Ideal reaction is to alert on the gunfire and show braveness at the sound.

**Stage 6** attack on handler: IMMEDIATELY after the gunfire the dog is attached to a safety cable and is ready for the attack from the agitator. The dog must have strong enough nerves and recover from the gunfire and be willing to defend. The dog must step in front of the handler and actively defend the handler from the "bad guy". Dogs will be given a chance to take a bite on the padded sleeve, but are not required to bite. Dogs MUST stay in front of the handler (without instruction or coaxing) during the attack to pass the TT. Dogs that are unwilling to defend or whom shy behind the owner will not pass. To pass the TT the dog must pass the gunshot test and the attack on the handler, the other stations help determine how well rounded the dog is in overall temperament and stableness. Dogs are passed with a score of "excellent" or "good". If a dog is "fair" they do not earn a certificate, but instead are given a free re-test in the future. Dogs that do not pass the gunfire and attack on handler fail the TT and do not earn a certificate. Each dog is given an immediate evaluation to the owner as well as to the onlookers after the test so that its known what the dog scored at each station and the reasons for the overall score (as well as ways to improve the score in the future.)

The dog must wear a wide, flat buckle collar or agitation harness and a strong leather or nylon leash during the bite work portion of the test. For security and insurance, the dog must be attached to the safety cable during the basic test bite work portion, and the collar must be tight enough that it will not pull over the head of the dog and strong enough not to break during the bite work. We usually have some collars available for use during the test, but it is usually best if you have a collar or harness that your dog is familiar with to get the best performance during the test. Sometimes the strangeness of being on a different collar, harness, or cable will be enough of a distraction to hinder the dog's best possible score the first time they are tested. The dog may also wear a regular choke collar during the rest of the test as would be expected if the dog was going for a walk with the owner.

Due to time constraints, green dogs (dogs that have never been tested) will go first, then, time permitting, dogs that have previously tested may be entered.

### **HIGH IN TRIAL**

For High In Trial, the dogs that pass the basic temperament test may then go forward to an advanced test where more demanding situations are given for the bite work. Each test is slightly different, but past tests have included multiple agitators; distraction objects such as plastic trash bags waving at them; use of chairs, umbrellas, sticks as attack objects; making the dog attack the "bad guy" over barrels, crates, water hose, or other obstacles; gunfire DURING the bite

work-- anything that may cause the dog to pause or test the nerves and willingness of the dog to focus on the task at hand which is Keeping the handler safe from the attacking bad guy! The dog that shows the most skill and determination, focus to the task and overall "heart" will score High In Trial. This is a test best left for mature dogs with strong nerves. If the agitator or score person feels the dog is not ready or is overwhelmed, the test will be stopped and the dog will not advance.