

Activity: Dog Intelligence Test

On SCOPE's Animal Intelligence episode, you saw Julia test the intelligence of a border collie named Cato. Here's how she did it:



What you need:

Your dog (at least one year old)

A friend to help

Doggy treats

Empty can (like a soup can)

Towel

Stop watch

Low table (or something that your dog can get its paws under but not its head – you can make one out of phone books or bricks and a piece of wood)

What to do:

As you might have already found out, there are smart dogs and there are not-so-smart dogs. By conducting the following tests, you can find out whether your dog is destined to be the next doggy Einstein.

TEST 1

1. Ask your friend to hold your dog.
2. Show your dog a treat.
3. While your dog is watching, place the treat under the can about 4 metres away.
4. Ask your friend to let go of your dog. Start the stopwatch and see how long it takes it to find the food.

If your dog found the food in 5 seconds or less

FANTASTIC

If your dog found the food in 5-15 seconds

GREAT

If your dog found the food in 15-30 seconds

PRETTY GOOD

If your dog found the food in 30+ seconds

NOT BAD

TEST 2

1. Ask your friend to hold your dog.
2. Show your dog a treat.
3. While you dog is watching, place the treat under the towel about 4 metres away.
4. Ask you friend to let go of the dog. Start the stopwatch and see how long it takes it to find the food.

If your dog found the food in 15 seconds or less

FANTASTIC

If your dog found the food in 15-30 seconds

GREAT

If your dog found the food in 30+ seconds

PRETTY GOOD

TEST 3

1. Set up your low table.

2. Ask your friend to hold your dog.
3. While your dog is watching, place the treat under the table so the dog will *just* be able to reach it with its paws.
4. Ask your friend to let go of the dog. Start the stopwatch and see how long it takes it to find the food.

<i>If your dog found the food in 60 seconds or less</i>	<i>FANTASTIC</i>
<i>If your dog found the food in 1-2 minutes</i>	<i>GREAT</i>
<i>If your dog found the food in 2+ minutes</i>	<i>NOT BAD</i>