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# Ever Wonder How Your Dog's Behavior Measure's Up

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# Ever Wonder How Your Dog's Behavior Measures Up?

BY KATHY KRUGER

The answer is only a mouse-click away now that researchers at Penn's Center for the Interaction of Animals and Society (CIAS) have developed the C-BARQ On-Line, a web-based version of the Canine Behavioral Assessment and Research Questionnaire. As a benefit to *Bellwether* subscribers, a free preview of the C-BARQ On-Line is being offered until July 31, 2006. During this introductory period, all recipients of *Bellwether* are free to evaluate as many dogs as they would like using the C-BARQ On-Line, and are welcome to share this offer with their families, friends, colleagues and clients. All information entered during this period will become part of the C-BARQ On-Line database and will make a positive contribution to present and future research on canine behavior and its pathology.

The original paper-and-pencil C-BARQ was designed and created by **Dr. James Serpell**, Marie A. Moore Professor of Humane Ethics and Animal Welfare and director of the CIAS, and colleagues as a reliable, standardized method for evaluating and screening dogs for the presence and severity of behavior problems. Now, with the launch of the C-BARQ On-Line, the power of this empirically validated tool is being made widely available to veterinarians, animal behaviorists, dog trainers, researchers, animal shelters and rescue groups, guide and service dog schools and other organizations that can benefit from having instant access to a dog's behavioral profile.

The C-BARQ is truly unique. It is currently the only existing canine behavioral assessment instrument of its kind to be extensively tested for reliability and validity on large samples of dogs of many breeds.<sup>1</sup> This testing process has enabled the identification of 12 distinct temperament factors or traits that are common to the majority of dogs, regardless of breed, age, sex or neuter status. When owners use the C-BARQ On-Line to evaluate their dogs, they are instantly provided with separate scores for all the most common behavior problems in dogs (i.e., stranger-directed aggression, owner-directed aggression, stranger-directed fear, nonsocial fear, dog-directed fear or aggression, separation-related behavior, attachment/attention-seeking, chasing, excitability, touch sensitivity and trainability), together with a means of interpreting them.

In addition, the C-BARQ On-Line is simple to use, only takes about 15 minutes to complete and can be used by anyone reasonably familiar with the dog's typical responses to ordinary day-to-day events and stimuli.

If you would like to see how your dog's behavior measures up, and want to be one of the first to try this groundbreaking scientific tool for diagnosing and characterizing behavior problems in dogs, please

visit the C-BARQ On-Line before July 31, 2006 at [www/vet/upenn.edu/cbarq](http://www/vet/upenn.edu/cbarq).

After July 31, 2006, the C-BARQ On-Line will become a pay site available only to veterinary practices and other organizations. If you have questions about the C-BARQ On-Line, or would like information about how your practice or organization can become a subscriber to the C-BARQ On-Line service after the introductory period, please e-mail [kkruger@vet.upenn.edu](mailto:kkruger@vet.upenn.edu) or call 215-746-0096. ♣

<sup>1</sup>Hsu, Y. and Serpell, J. A. "Development and validation of a questionnaire for measuring behavior and temperament traits in pet dogs." *JAVMA*, 223:1293-1300, 2003.



## ANIMALS SUMMER CAMP JUNE 21 THROUGH JUNE 30

Penn's Center for the Interaction of Animals and Society ([www2.vet.upenn.edu/research/centers/cias/](http://www2.vet.upenn.edu/research/centers/cias/)) is collaborating with the University City Arts League ([www.ucartsleague.org](http://www.ucartsleague.org)) in forming an eight-day Animals Summer Camp for kids aged 6 to 10. Approximately 15 to 20 children will be enrolled. Faculty and students from Penn Veterinary Medicine will be involved, and a tour will be given of the Ryan Hospital on one day of the camp. Please contact Kathy Kruger, assistant director of CIAS, at 215-746-0096 or [kkruger@vet.upenn.edu](mailto:kkruger@vet.upenn.edu) for details.

