

Testing Compassion

Life Care always seeks people who have the professional skills to work in our nursing centers. But in our business, that is not enough. We also need individuals who have compassion for those they serve. It is an absolute must.

In the interview process, it can reasonably well be ascertained about the skill set of the applicant, but it is a little more demanding to gauge the heart of the person being considered. The question also is sometimes raised: Can compassion be taught? You may have your own idea about that.

Recently, I read a story about the instructor of a dog training workshop in Salt Lake City, who believed that a dog's disposition can be tested by the owner. If the owner will fall down and pretend to be hurt, he thought, a dog with a bad temper will tend to bite him.

On the other hand, a good dog will show concern and may lick the fallen owner's face. That was the instructor's theory.

Susan Matice attended his class and then decided to test her two dogs. While eating pizza in her living room, she stood up, clutched her heart, screamed, and fell to the floor.

Her two dogs looked at her, looked at each other, and then raced to the coffee table for her pizza.

We don't suggest that test for human beings.

--Beecher Hunter