

**Canine Behavior Evaluation Form**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Shelter \_\_\_\_\_ Dog's Name / ID # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Breed \_\_\_\_\_ History \_\_\_\_\_  
 Evaluator \_\_\_\_\_ Observer/scribe \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* RESPONSES IN BOLD ITALICS INDICATE SEVERE RED-FLAG BEHAVIOR THAT MAY RULE THE DOG OUT FOR ADOPTION**

**Cage Presentation Test - while dog is still in kennel. Tester should not have interacted with dog in past.**

**Step #1** -Stand quietly in front of the kennel run, turned side-ways, look straight ahead, not at the dog. Watch out of corner of eye for 5 seconds.

**Step #2** - Turn and face the dog, bend at the waste and look directly into his eyes for 5 seconds

**Step #3** - Turn sideways, bend down and talk to the dog in a friendly, solicitous tone of voice for 5 seconds.

BEHAVIORAL RESPONSE	STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3
remains calm with relaxed body postures (low wagging tail, soft eyes)			
displays avoidance behaviours (turns head sideways, diverts eyes)			
displays fearful body postures (ears back, tail down, body low, backing up)			
comes towards front of cage in a calm solicitous manner (loose relaxed body)			
comes towards front of cage suspiciously (moving slowly, head down, ears back)			
comes forward excitedly – jumping on the front of the cage			
stays in place – barking			
moves forward – barking			
moves away - barking			
stays in the back of the kennel run - shaking, low growl, whale eye			
moves away, towards the back of run - shaking, low growl, whale eye			
<b><i>Displays defensive aggression – barks, growls, bares teeth with fearful body postures (lowered head, tucked tail, ears back, whale eye) while moving away</i></b>			
<b><i>Displays offensive aggression – barks, growls, bares teeth with offensive body postures (high tail, direct eye contact, ears erect) while charging/moving forward</i></b>			

**BEFORE PROCEEDING - Take the dog for a short walk to make sure he has eliminated if needed.**

**Sociability Test** - Take the dog to the evaluation room – let him sniff around for a few moments.

- Holding the end of the leash - stand and totally ignore the dog for 60 seconds – watch dog so that if he looks up at you, you can give him soft solicitous eye contact
  - \_\_\_\_\_ dog made calm social contact lasting more than 2 seconds
    - how many times? \_\_\_\_\_ longest amount of time? \_\_\_\_\_
    - eye contact    jumped on you    leaned against you (circle)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ dog made inappropriate/hyper social contact lasting more than 2 seconds
    - how many times? \_\_\_\_\_ longest amount of time? \_\_\_\_\_
    - jumped all over you    height seeking    muzzle punched (circle)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ ***dog made non-social contact less than 2 seconds at a time (drive bys, sniff)***
  - \_\_\_\_\_ ***dog completely ignored you and continued to investigate the environment***

2. Stroke the dog from neck to tail slowly – repeat 3 times waiting 5 seconds in between strokes (you can check more than one item)

	1	2	3
Dog stayed in place			
Dog moved closer			
Dog moved away			
Dog solicited more interaction - calmly			
Dog solicited more interaction – hyper/excitedly			
<b><i>Dog completely ignored you</i></b>			
<b><i>Dog exhibited signs of uneasiness (shake off, whipped head, stiffened, growled)</i></b> (write in what dog did)			

3. Sit down in a chair and ignore the dog for 5 seconds

dog came over to you within 5 seconds and stayed with you the whole time  
 calm     excited     inappropriate (face diving, muzzle punching, humping)  
 dog came over to you within 5 seconds but then moved away  
 ***dog ignored you – did not come over***

4. Remain sitting and talk solicitously and pet the dog for a full 20 seconds

dog came to you and/or stayed the entire 20 seconds  
 calm     excited     inappropriate (face diving, muzzle punching, humping)  
 dog came to you solicitously but then moved away  
 ***dog came over within 1 second but then moved away and never came back***  
 ***dog completely ignored you – never came over***

**With the slip lead on the dog, carefully proceed with the handling portion of the test. Try to act like a normal person - not a trained canine professional. Watch the dog closely and be ready to react to any aggression. STOP the test if the dog attempts to bite you or you feel that you are in danger of being bitten.**

**Teeth Exam.** Stand perpendicular to the dog holding the leash in one hand. With the other hand lift the dog's upper lips and attempt to hold them in that position for 5 seconds. Repeat this action 5 times in a row. Do not force the dog to accept this – release if he begins to struggle. Talk to the dog the whole time but do NOT pet in between teeth checks.

	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
Allows 5 seconds without struggle					
Struggles slightly but allows all 5 seconds					
Struggles - allows shorter time (indicate time)					
<b><i>Struggles fiercely – doesn't allow any time</i></b>					
<b><i>Pushes you away, jumps up, barks</i></b>					
<b><i>Stiffens, whale eye</i></b>					
<b><i>Whips head, air snaps</i></b>					
<b><i>Froze, growled, snarled, snapped, bit</i></b>					
<b>Other</b>					

**Handling Test** - Handle the dog as described below while in the same position as you were in during the teeth exam. Use the following scale to rate the dog's reaction to each handling exercise (record #)

- 1 – remains calm, allows handling
- 2 – uncomfortable with handling - tenses up, turns head towards hand, resists by pulling away
- 3 – *stiffens, whips around towards your hand, gives whale eye (indicate response)*
- 4 – *freezes, growls, snarls, snaps, bites (indicate response)*

	#	response
a. stand perpendicular to the dog and stroke his far side	_____	_____
b. run hand down his back leg and pick up hind foot	_____	_____
c. run hand down dog's tail and tug slightly	_____	_____
d. touch and look inside both ears	_____	_____
e. apply slight pressure to the dog's shoulders	_____	_____
f. move dog around by the collar	_____	_____
g. wipe body with a towel	_____	_____
h. hug the dog	_____	_____

**Arousal Test** - Initiate play with the dog (toys, balls, rope toy) for 30 seconds and then stop. For pitbull type dogs – make sure to engage them in a game of tug-o-war

- \_\_\_\_\_ nice level of play
- \_\_\_\_\_ became fearful (ears back, tail tucked) and moves away
- \_\_\_\_\_ did not show any interest in playing
- \_\_\_\_\_ became highly aroused but calmed down quickly once play ended
- \_\_\_\_\_ *became highly aroused (hyper, intense focus, growling while tugging toy fiercely) – stayed that way after you stopped*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *crossed over to aggression when in hyper-aroused state*

**Food Bowl Test** – With the dog tethered to the wall, give him a bowl of food.

**STEP #1** - Once the dog is eating, use the assess-a-hand to first pet his back, then reach toward the bowl and pull it out of the dog's reach. Wait one second and then give the bowl back.

**STEP #2** – Once the dog is eating again – approach and reach in and play with the kibble a bit. Then back off.

**STEP #3** – Approach again and reach into the bowl and try to nudge the dog's face out.

BEHAVIORAL RESPONSE	STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3
stopped eating and backed away from the dish			
continued to eat but did not show any signs of uneasiness			
moved muzzle deeper into dish and ate faster – intense about food			
stiffened slightly			
moved muzzle toward hand			
<i>stiffened, gave whale eye, snarled (indicate response)</i>			
<i>froze, growled, lunged, snapped, bit assess-a-hand</i>			

**Possession Test** - With the dog tethered to the wall, offer a valued possession (rawhide, pig ear, etc.). Having a rug or blanket available for the dog is recommended

Once the dog has taken possession of the item, reach for it using the assess-a-hand - attempting to take the item away. Repeat this three times (R # 1, 2, and 3 in table below)

BEHAVIORAL RESPONSE	R #1	R #2	R #3
readily dropped item			
allowed assess-a-hand or real hand to take object away (circle one)			
resisted letting go of possession but did not show outward aggression			
<i>stiffened, gave whale eye, snarled (indicate response)</i>			
<i>froze, growled, lunged, snapped, bit assess-a-hand</i>			

**Stranger Test** - Someone knocks on the door - you say “come in!” Stranger then enters, stops at least 6 feet away and stares at the dog for 3 seconds; then takes a step forward, stops, and reaches towards the dog. Stranger then squats down, facing sideways, and talk to the dog in a friendly voice.

- \_\_\_\_\_ remains calm, and is friendly upon solicitation
- \_\_\_\_\_ nervous about stranger (ears back, tail tucked), is friendly upon solicitation
- \_\_\_\_\_ alarm barks or growls and backs off completely, is friendly upon solicitation
- \_\_\_\_\_ *alarm barks, hackles up, growls, doesn't calm readily, eventually is friendly upon solicitation but in cautious way.*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *alarm barks, hackles up, growls, can't settle, will not approach upon solicitation or its not safe to allow to approach*

**Dog to Dog Test** - Take the dog being tested outside and bring a previously tested dog out (both dogs leashed). Repeat test with several dogs.

Upon seeing the other dog:

- |       |       |       |  |
|-------|-------|-------|--|
| #1    | #2    | #3    |  |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | remains calm – with or without interest in the other dog (circle one)                      |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | pulls forward to get closer to the other dog but body language remains friendly or neutral |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | <i>reacts with threats (barking, lunging, snarling, growling).</i>                         |

**\*\* If extreme – do not bring dogs together.**

Bring dogs to each other and allow interaction. Be ready to separate at first signs of serious aggression (snarling, growling, lunging, snapping) but let them communicate with one another.

- |       |       |       |  |
|-------|-------|-------|--|
| #1    | #2    | #3    |  |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | totally ignored other dog  |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | relaxed and friendly with other dog  |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | invited play (play bow, pawing, friendly barks or whines, etc.) (circle all that apply)      |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | displayed submissive behaviours (lowered body, tail tucked, ears down, rolled over) (circle) |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | displayed dominant behaviours (placing head or paw on other dog's back, mounting)            |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | <i>displayed defensively aggressive behaviour (bared teeth, growling, lunging) (circle)</i>  |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | <i>displayed offensively aggressive behavior (snarl, growl, lunged) (circle)</i>             |