

1 Assessment Information

Dog Name / ID: _____

Age (approx): _____

Sex / Altered Status: _____

Breed (if known): _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

Assessor(s) Name(s): _____

Location(s) Used

Kennel

Outdoor run

Yard

Office/room

Other: _____

Length of Time in Shelter at Time of Assessment

Intake Day

1–3 days

4–7 days

1–2 weeks

2+ weeks

Unknown

Other: _____

2 Environmental Context

Noise Level During Assessment

Quiet

Moderate

Loud

Intermittent loud noises

Other: _____

Nearby Dogs Barking

None

Occasional

Frequent

Constant

Other: _____

Other Environmental Factors Present

Cleaning activity

Feeding time

High foot traffic

Volunteers present

Strangers entering/exiting

Toys present

Food present

Other animals visible

Person in uniform present

Other: _____

Dog's Physiological State

Recently fed

Recently exercised

Recently transported

Medical concerns noted

Unkown

Other: _____

3 Kennel Observations

Body Posture on Approach (check all observed)

Loose / neutral

Tense

Lowered body

Crouched

Jumping

Turning away

Approaching door

Other: _____

Tail Carriage

Neutral

Low

High

Tucked

Loose wag

Tight / rapid wag

Other: _____

Vocalizations

None

Barking

Whining

Growling

Howling

Other: _____

Response to Kennel Door Opening

Moves forward

Moves away

Freezes

Jumps

Attempts rapid exit / bolt risk

Waits

Growls

Snaps

Other: _____

4 Leash Application & Exit

Leash Presentation

Moves toward leash

Moves away from leash

Sniffs leash

Ignores leash

Freezes

Turns head away

Allows placement

Pulls away during placement

Mouth contact (leash or hand)

Other: _____

Exit from Kennel / Space

Walks out

Hesitates

Rushes out

Must be guided

Plants body

Pulls strongly

Scans environment

Other: _____

5 Handler–Dog Interaction

Approaches handler

Maintains proximity

Brief interaction then disengages

Avoids proximity

Freezes

Jumps on handler

Solicits touch

Brings toy/object

Other: _____

Response to Handler Voice

Orients to voice

Sustained eye contact

Brief glance

No observable response

Startles

Approaches when called

Other: _____

Response to (Attempted or Applied) Gentle Physical Contact

Seeks continued contact

Accepts

Moves away

Freezes

Lip licking

Yawning

Turns head away

Mouth contact

Vocalization

Other: _____

6 Movement & Arousal

Walking on Leash

Loose leash

Moderate tension

Sustained pulling

Zig-zagging

Freezing

Planting

Jumping

Mouth on leash

Scans environment frequently

Other: _____

Response to Novel Stimulus (i.e. a toy, a ball, agility equipment, etc.)

Stimulus presented: _____

Orients briefly then disengages

Sustained staring

Moves toward

Moves away

Freezes

Vocalizes

Seeks handler

Recovers ≤ 5 sec

Recovers > 5 sec

Other: _____

7 Food Interaction

Food Presentation

Tossed on ground

In bowl

Hand-fed

Food puzzle

Other: _____

Interest Level

Immediate

Delayed

Sniffs only

No interest

Takes gently

Takes rapidly

Drops food

Other: _____

Response to Human Movement Near Food

Continues eating

Pauses

Freezes

Covers food

Moves away

Mouth contact

Snaps

Growls

Vocalization

Other: _____

8 Dog-to-Dog Observations (If Applicable)

Type of Exposure / Context

Visual only

Barrier introduction

Parallel walk

Separate but distanced co-existence

Structured playgroup

One-on-one off-leash

Shared kennel

Through-barrier kennel interaction

Other: _____

Initial Response

Brief orient then disengage

Sustained stare

Loose approach

Hesitant approach
Play solicitation
Stiff posture
Vocalization
Avoidance
Freezes
Defensive behavior (growling, backing away)
Offensive behavior (closing down space, proactively approaching aggressively)
Other: _____

Behavior During Interaction

Loose/reciprocal
Butt / genital sniffing
Nose to nose contact
Role reversals
One-sided pursuit
Mounting
Body slamming
Escalation
Independent disengagement
Handler interruption required
Freezing
Snapping (no contact)
Other: _____

Post-Interaction Recovery

Returns to neutral
Accepts food
Seeks handler
Avoids
Sustained arousal
Vocalizes
Other: _____

Time to recovery: _____

9 Comparison to Previous Assessment

Previous Assessment Date: _____

- Increased approach
- Increased avoidance
- Increased arousal
- Decreased arousal
- Faster recovery
- Slower recovery
- Increased food interest
- Decreased food interest
- Decreased food interest
- Less handler engagement
- No notable change
- Other: _____

Extended description of differences or changes.

Note new or notable behaviors across any/all of the above listed categories:

10 Other notes or pertinent information not listed above:

Behavior During Interaction

- Continue observation
- Gather additional context
- Repeat assessment on later date

Handler Match & Support Considerations

This section is meant to document **what supports this dog appears to benefit from in the current environment**, based on observed behaviors during the assessment.

d) Handler Experience Level Observed to Be Appropriate

(Check all that apply based on observed needs)

General volunteer / staff

Volunteer with additional handling experience

Experienced handler

Staff only

One consistent handler preferred

Multiple handlers tolerated

Other: _____

Extended description of differences or changes.

Note new or notable behaviors across any/all of the above listed categories:

b) Handling Supports That Appeared Helpful

Calm, slow movement

Predictable routines

Verbal communication before touch

Reduced leash pressure

Increased distance from triggers

Shorter handling sessions

Structured walks

Food reinforcement

Space to disengage

Other: _____

Description:

c) Handling Considerations to Note

- Increased arousal with fast movement
- Increased arousal with loud voices
- Hesitation with unfamiliar handlers
- Hesitation with handling in confined spaces
- Mouth contact during high arousal
- Freezing observed during specific handling
- Improved regulation with consistent handling style
- Other: _____

Description (context in which this was observed):

d) Information to Share with Staff / Volunteers

(Key observations for continuity of care)

- Preferred approach style observed
- Notable triggers in this context
- Effective de-escalation strategies observed
- Recovery patterns to watch for
- Environmental factors that impacted behavior
- Other: _____

Description:

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