

SUBJECT: Canine Behavior Assessment & Behavior Program

OVERVIEW:

A behavior assessment on dogs that come to the shelter is essential to determine proper handling procedures and the course of action that will be taken for each dog. The primary assessment tool is the SAFER® assessment, administered according to the guidelines established by the ASPCA.

All dogs will undergo a complete behavior assessment upon intake if possible, again after 2-3 days to allow the dog to acclimate, and every 30 days thereafter while at the shelter. Additionally, kennel staff and volunteers observe the dogs throughout the day and if any issues arise they will consult with the kennel supervisor or the Behavior and Training Manager. Dogs may also be reassessed when new behavior problems are noted by staff or the Behavior and Training Manager.

Behavior assessments will be made on owned animals that are impounded for code violations or animals in quarantine, as allowable by law and according to the same guidelines as for any other dog.

POLICY:

After any required hold times, dogs without medical or behavioral problems will be immediately placed up for adoption or transfer. Dogs that exhibit mild-moderate behavior problems that can be safely addressed by staff and volunteers in a shelter environment will enter the behavior program. Some examples of behavior that can be addressed include resource guarding, dog reactivity, and handling sensitivity. Dogs in the behavior program will still be available for transfer. Dogs in the behavior program may be listed as available for adoption or they may need to be reassessed before that determination is made.

Based on initial SAFER® scores, some dogs will receive a second evaluation by the Behavior and Training Manager as per the guidelines below:

Behavior Program Manager will evaluate animals that receive:

- More than one part of test scored as 3.
- Any part of assessment 4+
- Resource Guarding 3+ for large dogs.
- Dog test 2 or 3 with aggression if large breed or history of aggression towards other dogs.
- Dog test 4.

At the end of the assessment staff will discuss suitable home environments and establish restrictions for children and pets:

- Children: Based on history, resource guarding tests, mouthing/jumping, handling sensitivity, nervousness, size, age, and health staff may set a minimum age requirement for residents in the home.
- Cats: Based on history and an assessment with a fake cat staff will indicate if the dog should go to a home with cats, dog-savvy cats, or without cats.
- Dogs: All dogs currently in the potential adopters home are required to meet the adoption candidate if that dog is allowed to live with other dogs. Dogs with a history of aggression toward dogs and dogs that score poorly during the dog introduction portion of the assessment may be restricted to homes without other dogs.

Dogs that pose a dangerous threat (display dangerous aggression, have a history of dangerous aggression or are a danger to themselves) and cannot be safely handled by staff and volunteers in the shelter will not be placed up for adoption, but will be considered candidates for transfer to a rescue or another shelter with the resources to care for and/or rehabilitate the dog. Dogs that meet this category include:

- Resource Guarding 5, or 4 with additional concerns
- Bite History (bite that involved broken skin, bite to face or torso)
- Aggression toward other animals that falls outside the scope of the behavior program
- History of killing companion animals
- Behavior problems that involve severe self-inflicted injuries, severe mental anguish, and/or repeated and extensive property damage

A behavior program may be started in order to prevent kennel stress related behaviors in some dogs (such as high energy, active dogs). Any dog assessed to have treatable behavior issues will have a behavior program put into place with recommendations for staff and volunteers to follow. Any dog that is deemed to be too dangerous to assess at the time of impound will be given time to adjust and assessments will be attempted at a later date (3-6 days).

Individuals adopting dogs with behavior issues may be required to discuss the problem(s) with the Behavior and Training Manager prior to finalizing the adoption and sign a Behavior Waiver. The Behavior and Training Manager will follow-up with these adopters to check up on the progress of the dog. No follow-ups are done for dogs that are transferred or rescued.

PROCEDURE:

RESPONSIBILITY

ACTION

Animal Welfare Officer

Upon intake, fills out a report in regards to the dog's behavior. – REPORT FORM PENDING

Kennel Staff

Notes any significant behavior problems or abnormalities on the dog's medical record. Whenever any behavior abnormalities are seen, requests a medical exam by the Veterinarian and a behavior evaluation by the Behavior and Training Manager using the kennel wipe-off board.

Veterinarian

Examines the dog and determines if a medical cause of behavior abnormalities is possible. Provides appropriate treatment plan (such as pain medication or medical procedure to alleviate source of pain). Reports outcome to Behavior and Training Manager and staff.

Behavior and Training Manager in conjunction with Kennel Staff

1. Evaluates the dog using, but not limited to, the SAFER® Behavior Assessment.
2. If necessary creates a written Behavior Plan for the dog and communicates with staff, and/or trains staff, to carry out the Behavior Plan.
3. When necessary, follows up on the dog's progress, according to the Behavior and Training Manager's schedule and availability, and makes adjustments to the Behavior Plan as needed

Volunteers

Volunteer Observation Sheets are kept in a binder in the volunteer area of the kennel for volunteers to make comments on the dogs.

Behavior and Training Manager or Kennel Staff

Behavior notes will be added to the dog's shelter file.

ATTACHMENTS:

Animal Welfare Officer Reporting Form - PENDING
SAFER® Behavior Assessment Form
SAFER® Scores and Probability of Aggression
Additional Exercises
Recommendations / Restrictions Form
Ian Dunbar Dog Bite Scale
Ian Dunbar Dog Fight Bite Ratio

SAFER™ worksheet

MYM
MEET YOUR MATCH

<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	date	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
<i>shelter name</i>		
<input style="width: 45%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 45%;" type="text"/>	
<i>assessor</i>	<i>observer</i>	
<input style="width: 45%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 15%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 40%;" type="text"/>
<i>dog's name</i>	<i>age</i>	<i>coat color</i>
<i>sex</i> <input type="checkbox"/> male <input type="checkbox"/> neutered male <input type="checkbox"/> female <input type="checkbox"/> spayed female		<input style="width: 200px;" type="text"/>
		<i>breed</i>
<i>date entered shelter</i>	<input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 300px;" type="text"/>
	<i>dog ID number</i>	

item 1 – look:

	<i>Dog leans forward or jumps up to lick the Assessor's face with tail wagging, ears back and eyes averted. [Enter "1"]</i>
	<i>Dog's eyes are averted, with tail wagging and ears back. He allows head to be held loosely in Assessor's cupped hands. [Enter "1"]</i>
	<i>Dog holds gaze with soft eyes, soft body. He allows head to be held loosely in Assessor's cupped hands. Dog holds gaze for three full seconds. [Enter "1"]</i>
	<i>Dog's eyes are averted. His ears are back, his tail is down, and he has a relaxed body posture. Dog allows head to be held loosely in Assessor's cupped hands. [Enter "1"]</i>
	<i>Dog's eyes are averted. His body posture is stiff and fearful, his tail is low and not moving. He allows head to be held loosely in Assessor's cupped hands. [Enter "2"]</i>
	<i>Dog pulls out of Assessor's hands each time without settling during three repetitions. [Enter "2"]</i>
	<i>Dog jumps on the Assessor, consistently rubs his shoulder on the Assessor, and will not allow Assessor to conduct the assessment. [Enter "3"]</i>
	<i>Dog holds eye contact while remaining motionless with ears forward. His body is stiff and becomes stiffer as assessment progresses. [Enter "4"]</i>
	<i>Dog freezes and/or growls or tries to bite. [Enter "5"]</i>

If aggression is noted, use the checklist below to evaluate the dog's response. You can use this information to help best guide the behavior team regarding potential behavior modification and management (see guide for protocols).

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Body stiff | <input type="checkbox"/> Eyes hard | <input type="checkbox"/> Vocalizes | <input type="checkbox"/> Exposes teeth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Freeze | <input type="checkbox"/> Ears back | <input type="checkbox"/> Dog growls | <input type="checkbox"/> Snaps no contact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tail up | <input type="checkbox"/> Ears forward | | <input type="checkbox"/> Attempts to bite |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tail down | | | |

Behaviors observed before, during or after the item:

item 2 – sensitivity:

	<i>Dog leans into the Assessor, eyes soft or squinty, soft and loose body, open mouth. [Enter "1"]</i>
	<i>Dog stands still and accepts the touch, his eyes are averted, and his tail is in neutral position with relaxed body posture. Dog's mouth is likely closed for at least a portion of the assessment item. [Enter "1"]</i>
	<i>Dog displays high energy and movement, but it is directed toward getting closer to the Assessor. His body is soft, likely panting, may jump up between attempts to lick Assessor. [Enter "2"]</i>
	<i>Dog is active and focused on the Assessor and all other stimuli available. His body is soft, likely panting, likely to display high movement between attempts. [Enter "2"]</i>
	<i>Dog stands still and accepts the touch, his eyes are averted, his tail is between his legs, body stiff, mouth closed, lip long, ears likely back, may lip lick. [Enter "2"]</i>
	<i>Dog repeatedly turns toward the Assessor's hand, with loose body and open mouth, mouths the hand, but does not apply pressure. Or, dog licks hands while lips are long. [Enter "2"]</i>
	<i>Dog is not fearful and is struggling to get away. The dog is not focused and is in constant movement, unconnected to the Assessor. [Enter "3"]</i>
	<i>Dog stands tall and square. His tail perpendicular to spine, mouth closed for the majority of assessment item. [Enter "3"]</i>
	<i>Dog repeatedly turns toward the Assessor's hand with a very fast head movement. If able, he muzzle punches the hand. His body is stiff and he has a closed mouth with a short lip. [Enter "4"]</i>
	<i>Dog freezes, growls or tries to bite. [Enter "5"]</i>
<p>If aggression is noted, use the checklist below to evaluate the dog's response. You can use this information to help best guide the behavior team regarding potential behavior modification and management (see guide for protocols).</p>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Body stiff</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Freeze</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tail up</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tail down</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Eyes hard</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Ears back</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Ears forward</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Vocalizes</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Dog growls</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Exposes teeth</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Snaps no contact</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Attempts to bite</i>

Behaviors observed before, during or after the item:

item 3 – tag:

	<i>Dog assumes play position and joins the game. Or dog indicates play with huffing, soft 'popping' of the body, etc. Dog might jump on Assessor once play begins. [Enter "1"]</i>		
	<i>Dog stands with his tail low and wagging, and comes toward the Assessor in a friendly manner when the Assessor ceases moving. [Enter "1"]</i>		
	<i>Follows at end of leash, body soft, or low and a bit fearful. [Enter "1"]</i>		
	<i>Dog is fearful but unresponsive when touched. Approaches the Assessor when the game ends. Dog is likely crouching, may have long lip or lip lick. [Enter "2"]</i>		
	<i>Dog is not fearful but is unresponsive to the Assessor, and approaches the Assessor at the end of the game (may need coaxing to approach). He is focused on stimuli other than the Assessor. [Enter "2"]</i>		
	<i>Dog repeatedly turns quickly away when touched, or repeatedly spins toward the touch, and repeatedly tries to exit. Dog may be crouching, tail is tucked, mouth closed, body stiff. [Enter "3"]</i>		
	<i>Dog responds with his tail high, ears forward, mouth likely closed for at least half of the assessment item, body stiff and body checks the Assessor. Dog is often focused on other stimuli in the room. [Enter "3"]</i>		
	<i>Dog panics with vocalization combined with tail tuck, yelping and repeatedly trying to exit. (If dog settles after 1st or 2nd tag, choose 1st "3" scoring option). [Enter "4"]</i>		
	<i>Dog stands his ground while not cornered and barks at the Assessor with ears forward, body stiff, mouth closed and lips pursed when not barking. [Enter "4"]</i>		
	<i>Dog growls or tries to bite. [Enter "5"]</i>		
<p>If aggression is noted, use the checklist below to evaluate the dog's response. You can use this information to help best guide the behavior team regarding potential behavior modification and management (see guide for protocols).</p>			
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Body stiff</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Freeze</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tail up</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tail down</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Eyes hard</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Ears back</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Ears forward</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Vocalizes</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Dog growls</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Exposes teeth</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Snaps no contact</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Attempts to bite</i>

Behaviors observed before, during or after the item:

Note: If the dog's behavior upon the first attempt matches any of the response choices higher than a "2", you should use the rear flank.

item 4 – squeeze:			
if paw is used:			
First Attempt	Second Attempt		
		<i>Dog gently pulls back his paw. Dog may lick hand. [Enter "1"]</i>	
		<i>Dog does not respond at all for three seconds. His eyes are averted and his ears are relaxed or back. [Enter "1"]</i>	
		<i>Dog gently pulls back and whimpers. [Enter "2"]</i>	
		<i>Dog gently places his open mouth over the Assessor's hand without applying pressure. [Enter "2"]</i>	
		<i>Dog closes mouth, becomes stiff. [Enter "3"] Note: If this behavior occurs on the first attempt, use the flank instead.</i>	
		<i>Dog is soft in body and eye, and moves his legs/body so that the Assessor is unable to hold the paw [Enter "3"] Note: If this behavior occurs on the first attempt, use the flank instead.</i>	
		<i>Dog yelps repeatedly or screams. [Enter "3"] Note: If this behavior occurs on the first attempt, use the flank instead.</i>	
		<i>Dog head flips while pulling back paw. [Enter "3"] Note: If this behavior occurs on the first attempt, use the flank instead.</i>	
		<i>Dog reaches toward the Assessor's hand on the second attempt while moving his paw away when the Assessor attempts to lift it. The dog will not allow the Assessor to assess second time. [Enter "4"] Note: If this behavior occurs on first attempt, use the flank instead.</i>	
		<i>Dog growls. [Enter "4"] Note: If this behavior occurs on the first attempt, use the flank instead.</i>	
		<i>Dog freezes and/or tries to bite. [Enter "5"] Note: If this behavior occurs on the first attempt, use the flank instead.</i>	
if rear flank is used:			
First Attempt	Second Attempt		
		<i>Dog sits, mouth open or lip long. [Enter "1"]</i>	
		<i>Dog does not respond at all. [Enter "1"]</i>	
		<i>Dog gently places his open mouth over the Assessor's hand without applying pressure. [Enter "2"]</i>	
		<i>Dog closes mouth, begins to purse lips and becomes stiff. [Enter "3"]</i>	
		<i>Dog head flips while moving hip away. [Enter "3"]</i>	
		<i>Dog growls. [Enter "4"] Note: If this behavior occurs on the first attempt stop the assessment. Proceed to the Food and Toy Behavior items if additional information is desired.</i>	
		<i>Dog tries to bite. [Enter "5"] Note: If this behavior occurs on the first attempt stop the assessment. Proceed to the Food and Toy Behavior items if additional information is desired.</i>	
<p>If aggression is noted, use the checklist below to evaluate the dog's response. You can use this information to help best guide the behavior team regarding potential behavior modification and management (see guide for protocols).</p>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Body stiff	<input type="checkbox"/> Tail down	<input type="checkbox"/> Ears forward	<input type="checkbox"/> Exposes teeth
<input type="checkbox"/> Freeze	<input type="checkbox"/> Eyes hard	<input type="checkbox"/> Vocalizes	<input type="checkbox"/> Snaps no contact
<input type="checkbox"/> Tail up	<input type="checkbox"/> Ears back	<input type="checkbox"/> Dog growls	<input type="checkbox"/> Attempts to bite

Behaviors observed before, during or after the item:



note

If the dog does not eat, try another type of food. If necessary, retest at a later point.

item 5 – food behavior:

	<i>Dog lifts head and ceases eating when you reach to pull the bowl away or push him out. [Enter "1"]</i>		
	<i>Dog calmly allows the food to be moved, follows the dish, but does not interfere with the dish's movement. Dog's body is soft and loose, eyes soft, tail neutral. He lifts his head when hand is pushed against his cheek. [Enter "1"]</i>		
	<i>Dog follows the dish with his tail down, body likely a bit stiff. Dog lifts head after a bit of pressure from hand to cheek. [Enter "2"]</i>		
	<i>Dog follows the dish, his tail between his legs, ears are forward. His body is stiff. Dog does not lift his head from the bowl when hand is applied to his cheek. [Enter "3"]</i>		
	<i>Dog gulps food, begins to eat faster and with bigger bites, body stiff. He does not lift head when hand is applied to cheek. [Enter "3"]</i>		
	<i>Dog freezes and/or growls. [Enter "4"]</i>		
	<i>Dog tries to bite. (Use chart on the worksheet to identify level of bite attempt/bite.) [Enter "5"]</i>		
If aggression is noted, use the checklist below to evaluate the dog's response. You can use this information to help best guide the behavior team regarding potential behavior modification and management (see guide for protocols)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Body block	<input type="checkbox"/> Ears back	<input type="checkbox"/> Paws in bowl	<input type="checkbox"/> Snaps at hand (no contact)
<input type="checkbox"/> Body stiff	<input type="checkbox"/> Ears forward	<input type="checkbox"/> Urinates in bowl	<input type="checkbox"/> Repeated contact bite
<input type="checkbox"/> Freeze	<input type="checkbox"/> Eyes hard	<input type="checkbox"/> Bites bowl	<input type="checkbox"/> Leaves bowl to bite hand
<input type="checkbox"/> Tail up	<input type="checkbox"/> Exposes teeth		<input type="checkbox"/> Bites up Assess-a-Hand
<input type="checkbox"/> Tail down	<input type="checkbox"/> Vocalizes		

Behaviors observed before, during or after the item:



Recommend using 2 non-food toys (rope, squeaky, etc.) and then 1 unbasted rawhide item. Enter number for each item in that part of the column.

item 6 – toy behavior:

Toys only	Rawhide (if used)	
		No interest. [Enter "1"]
		Dog settles down close to chew, will relinquish toy or rawhide to you. [Enter "1"]
		Dog settles close, keeps a firm grip and is loose and wiggly. He does not place his body between you and the toy/rawhide. [Enter "1"]
		Dog takes toy away, keeps a firm hold. His body is between you and the toy or rawhide, and he is loose and wiggly. No growling or stiffness. [Enter "2"]
		Dog takes toy/rawhide away, keeps a firm hold. His body is stiff. [Enter "3"]
		Dog freezes and/or growls. [Enter "4"]
		Dog attempts bite (use chart on worksheet) [Enter "5"]

If aggression is noted, use the checklist below to evaluate the dog's response. You can use this information to help best guide the behavior team regarding potential behavior modification and management (see guide for protocols)

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Body block | <input type="checkbox"/> Ears back | <input type="checkbox"/> Paws on toy | <input type="checkbox"/> Snaps at hand (no contact) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Body stiff | <input type="checkbox"/> Ears forward | <input type="checkbox"/> Urinates on toy | <input type="checkbox"/> Repeated contact bite |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Freeze | <input type="checkbox"/> Eyes hard | | <input type="checkbox"/> Leaves toy to bite hand |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tail up | <input type="checkbox"/> Exposes teeth | | <input type="checkbox"/> Bites up Assess-a-Hand |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tail down | <input type="checkbox"/> Vocalizes | | |

Behaviors observed before, during or after the item:



note

Be sure to take your observational "snapshot" in the first few seconds of the approach. Dogs do not have to touch.

enter name and sex of dog-to-dog helper dog.

name _____ sex male female

item 7 – dog-to-dog behavior:

	Dog approaches the helper dog in play position. His mouth is open. [Enter "1"]
	Dog approaches the helper dog submissively (head low, tail low, ears back, lip long). [Enter "1"]
	Dog approaches helper dog with tail at spine level, body not stiff, ears relaxed, lip long or neutral. [Enter "2"]
	Dog does not approach the helper dog. Turns body to side in relation to other dog, or exits. [Enter "2"]
	Dog approaches the helper dog, body soft, tail well above spine level, ears forward. [Enter "2"]
	Dog approaches the helper dog by rushing in with his tail high, stiff body, head tall, and ears erect. [Enter "3"]
	Dog charges the helper dog while growling or attempting to bite. [Enter "4"]

If aggression is noted, use the checklist below to evaluate the dog's response. You can use this information to help best guide the behavior team regarding potential behavior modification and management (see guide for protocols).

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Freeze | <input type="checkbox"/> Eyes soft | <input type="checkbox"/> Vocalizes | <input type="checkbox"/> Exposes teeth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Body soft | <input type="checkbox"/> Eyes hard | <input type="checkbox"/> Dog growls | <input type="checkbox"/> Snaps no contact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Body stiff | <input type="checkbox"/> Ears back | | <input type="checkbox"/> Attempts to bite |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tail up | <input type="checkbox"/> Ears forward | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tail down | | | |

Behaviors observed before, during or after the item:

	Look	Sensitivity	Tag	Squeeze 1	Squeeze 2	Food	Toy	Rawhide	Dog
1									
2									
3									
4	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
5	S	S	S	S	R	R	R	R	

For each item, mark an 'x' in the box that intersects with the score for that item.

(Ex.: If the Sensitivity item has a score of "2", put an "x" in the box where row "2" and "Sensitivity" intersect.)

Legend:

- = Potential behavior modification and/or management
- = Behavior modification and/or management strongly recommended
- S = STOP item for safety reasons. Behavior modification and/or management strongly recommended. Move to food if SOP suggests

General observations and recommendations:

ASPCA

<http://www.aspcapro.org/safer-scores-and-probability-of-aggressi.php>

SAFER® Scores and Probability of Aggression

SAFER® scores correlate with probability of aggression as follows:

- Dogs who score 1s and 2s are less likely than dogs who score 3s, 4s, or 5s to bite when handled in a mildly stressful or moderately awkward manner under ordinary living situations.
- Dogs who score 3s may be safe and inhibit their bite. They could be made safer by putting them on a behavior modification program.
- Dogs who score 4s may have serious fear or intolerance issues. These dogs should either receive behavior modification training and then be reassessed, or be adopted out only to experienced adopters ready to manage the dog's issues.
- Dogs who score 5s in any of the first four assessment items have the highest probability of being a serious danger to staff, volunteers, and visitors to your facility. These dogs may or may not respond well to behavior modification. They should be handled only by the shelter's most experienced staff until their disposition is determined.
- Dogs who score 4 or 5 on the Food Behavior item and 1s or 2s in all other assessment items may benefit from the Food Guarding and I Hold the Resources behavior modification protocols.
- Dogs who score 4 or 5 on the Dog-to-Dog Behavior item and 1s or 2s in all other assessment items should be watched carefully during other interactions with dogs in your facility. These dogs may also benefit from the Reactivity toward Other Dogs protocol.

After conducting the SAFER assessment perform these additional exercises, review the dog's history, and complete the recommendations/restrictions section. Enter notes in Petpoint.

Scan Stray/Transfers for Microchip #: _____

Body Handling & Restraint: *Asses-a-hand may initially be used if unsure of dog's reactions.*

Teeth/ Muzzle	Ears	Body Stroke	Paws	Tail	Shoulder Press	5 Sec Hug	
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Remains relaxed or relaxes quickly.
2a	2a	2a	2a	2a	2a	2a	Pulls away, without aggression.
2b	2b	2b	2b	2b	2b	2b	Struggles but eventually allows.
2c	2c	2c	2c	2c	2c	2c	Seems uncomfortable, but is tolerant.
3a	3a	3a	3a	3a	3a	3a	Hyperactive/extreme struggling. Very difficult or impossible to handle.
3b	3b	3b	3b	3b	3b	3b	Very uncomfortable (ears back, tail tucked, body stiff), but allows without aggression. May see whale eye.
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	Growls, snarls, or head flips. Note: STOP Body Handling Test
5	5	5	5	5	5	5	Freezes &/or attempts bite. Note: STOP Body Handling Test

Fake Cat

1a	Scared; may tremble, look for escape, does not approach.
1b	Aware of cat but uninterested.
1c	Sniffs; shows interest but disengages on own.
2a	Tries to initiate gentle play, recalls easily or disengages after hiss or swat.
2b	Rough play style. Focused on cat, but recalls to handler.
3	Freezes; focused on cat and unable to recall. Can pull away & get dog's attention. Extremely rough play. <i>Recommend EW.</i>
4	Barks intensely; lunges; attempts to grab. Will not recall; cannot pull away & get dog's attention. <i>If put up for adoption, note that dog may be difficult to walk in neighborhood with cats/squirrels. Recommend EW/GL.</i>

Solid History Living With Cats	Fake Cat Test = 1	Cats ok
	Fake Cat Test = 2	Dog-savvy cats ok, slow intros
	Fake Cat Test = 3-4	Cat free home, recommend equip
No History Living With Cats	Fake Cat Test = 1	Dog-savvy cats ok, slow intros
	Fake Cat Test = 2	Dog-savvy cats ok, slow intros
	Fake Cat Test = 3-4	Cat free home, recommend equip

Recommendations/Restrictions

Children: No Restrictions 6+ 8+ 12+ 16+ Adults Only

Cats: No Restrictions Dog-savvy Cat-free home Cat-free home w/note

Dogs: Intros Required Only dog

Children: Consider history, resource guarding scores, mouthing/jumping, handling sensitivity, nervousness, size, age, & health. Kids 6+ for herders without kid history.

Cats: Consider history, breed, and behavior with fake cat when setting restrictions.

Dogs: All dogs required to meet other dogs in the home if allowed to live with dogs. SAFER scores of 2-3 with aggression and scores of 4 may be listed as "only dog"(BPM to evaluate).

Name Change: _____ Breed Change:_____

Adoption Description: _____

Stage: Needs Medical Check In, Spay/Neuter Pending, Dental Pending, Needs Photo (if med check completed), Evaluate (by BPM), Foster Behavior Program, Waiting for Transfer Pick Up (rescue),

Remember to Enter: Behavior Memo, Petango Memo, Stage/Location



Dr. Ian Dunbar's Dog Bite Scale (Official Authorized Version)

An assessment of the severity of biting problems based on an objective evaluation of wound pathology

Level 1. Obnoxious or aggressive behavior but no skin-contact by teeth.

Level 2. Skin-contact by teeth but no skin-puncture. However, may be skin nicks (less than one tenth of an inch deep) and slight bleeding caused by forward or lateral movement of teeth against skin, but no vertical punctures.

Level 3. One to four punctures from a single bite with no puncture deeper than half the length of the dog's canine teeth. Maybe lacerations in a single direction, caused by victim pulling hand away, owner pulling dog away, or gravity (little dog jumps, bites and drops to floor).

Level 4. One to four punctures from a single bite with at least one puncture deeper than half the length of the dog's canine teeth. May also have deep bruising around the wound (dog held on for N seconds and bore down) or lacerations in both directions (dog held on and shook its head from side to side).

Level 5. Multiple-bite incident with at least two Level 4 bites or multiple-attack incident with at least one Level 4 bite in each.

Level 6. Victim dead.

The above list concerns unpleasant behavior and so, to add perspective:

Levels 1 and 2 comprise well over 99% of dog incidents. The dog is certainly not dangerous and more likely to be fearful, rambunctious, or out of control. Wonderful prognosis. Quickly resolve the problem with basic training (control) — especially oodles of Classical Conditioning, numerous repetitive Retreat n' Treat, Come/Sit/Food Reward and Back-up/Approach/Food Reward sequences, progressive desensitization handling exercises, plus numerous bite-inhibition exercises and games. Hand feed only until resolved; do NOT waste potential food rewards by feeding from a bowl.

Level 3: Prognosis is fair to good, provided that you have owner compliance. However, treatment is both time-consuming and not without danger. Rigorous bite-inhibition exercises are essential.

Levels 4: The dog has insufficient bite inhibition and is very dangerous. Prognosis is poor because of the difficulty and danger of trying to teach bite inhibition to an adult hard-biting dog and because absolute owner-compliance is rare. Only work with the dog in exceptional circumstances, e.g., the owner is a dog professional and has sworn 100% compliance. Make sure the owner signs a form in triplicate stating that they understand and take full responsibility that: 1. The dog is a Level 4 biter and is likely to course an equivalent amount of damage WHEN it bites again (which it most probably will) and should therefore, be confined to the home at all times and only allowed contact with adult owners. 2. Whenever, children or guests visit the house, the dog should be confined to a single locked-room or roofed, chain-link run with the only keys kept on a chain around the neck of each adult owner. (To prevent children or guests entering the dog's confinement area.) 3. The dog is muzzled before leaving the house and only leaves the house for visits to a veterinary clinic. 4. The incidents have all been reported to the relevant authorities — animal control or police. Give the owners one copy, keep one copy for your files and give one copy to the dog's veterinarian.

Level 5 and 6: The dog is extremely dangerous and mutilates. The dog is simply not safe around people. I recommend euthanasia because the quality of life is so poor for dogs that have to live out their lives in solitary confinement.



An Objective Assessment of Danger of Fighting Dogs

Establish the number of full-contact fights and the number of fights in which the victim was taken to a veterinary clinic for treatment. The ratio between # Fights and # Bites (i.e., damage done) will indicate the level of bite inhibition and whether or not the dog is dangerous.

1. Not Dangerous — Many fights but no opponent admitted to veterinary hospital for treatment. Excellent prognosis — the dog has extremely reliable bite inhibition since it has never damaged another dog in numerous fights. The dog is unlikely to damage other dogs in future fights. The dog is not dangerous. Rehabilitate pronto with oodles of classical conditioning and basic training to build dog's confidence around other dogs. The vast majority of fighting dogs are not dangerous.

2. Dangerous — Few fights but most victims admitted to veterinary hospital. Prognosis is extremely poor since the dog routinely damages others when fighting and it is extremely difficult, time-consuming and potentially dangerous to try to teach adult dogs bite inhibition towards other dogs. The dog is highly likely to damage other dogs in future fights. The dog is dangerous to other dogs and should not be taken on to public property unless muzzled. Give a copy of your determination to the owners, keep one copy for your files and give one copy to the dog's veterinarian.