

## Canine Behavior Evaluation Form

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Dog's Name / ID # \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator \_\_\_\_\_ Observer/scribe \_\_\_\_\_

### Cage Presentation Test - while dog is still in kennel:

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.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ stands quietly in the cage, calmly looking at tester
  - \_\_\_\_\_ comes towards front of cage in a calm solicitous manner (loose relaxed body)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ stays in the back of the kennel run - shaking, low growl, whale eye (circle all that apply)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ moves away, towards the back of run - shaking, low growl, whale eye (circle all that apply)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ **charges at the front of cage in a threatening manner (barking, snarling, growling)**
2. Turn and face the dog and look directly into his eyes for 5 seconds – DO NOT threaten dog
  - \_\_\_\_\_ remains calm with relaxed body postures (low wagging tail, soft eye)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ displays avoidance behaviours (turns head sideways, diverts eyes)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ displays submissive or fearful body postures (ears back, tail down, body low, backing up)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ **displays defensive aggression (growling, barking, baring teeth - while moving away)**
  - \_\_\_\_\_ **displays offensive aggression (growling, barking, baring teeth – while lunging forward)**
3. Turn sideways, bend down and talk to the dog in a friendly, solicitous tone of voice for 5 seconds.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ stands quietly looking at you
  - \_\_\_\_\_ comes forward and solicits more interaction
  - \_\_\_\_\_ stays in the back of cage, submissive or frightened (ears back, tail tucked)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ **displays defensive aggression (barking, growling, snarling) (circle all that apply)**
  - \_\_\_\_\_ **displays offensive aggression (growling, snarling, lunging) (circle all that apply)**

### Sociability Test - Take the dog to the evaluation room

1. Holding the end of the leash - stand and totally ignore the dog for 60 seconds
  - \_\_\_\_\_ dog made social contact lasting more than 2 seconds                      How many times? \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_ **dog made contact less than 2 seconds at a time (drive by)**
  - \_\_\_\_\_ **dog completely ignored you and continued to investigate the environment**
2. Stroke the dog from neck to back slowly – repeat 3 times waiting 5 seconds in between strokes
  - \_\_\_\_\_ dog moved closer after 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> stroke (circle all that apply) and solicited more
  - \_\_\_\_\_ dog moved closer after 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> stroke (circle all that apply) and stays next to you
  - \_\_\_\_\_ dog stayed in the same position after 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> stroke (circle all that apply)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ **dog moved away after 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> stroke (circle all that apply) Shake off? \_\_\_\_\_**
  - \_\_\_\_\_ **dog completely ignored you and continued to investigate the environment**
3. Sit down and ignore the dog for 5 seconds
  - \_\_\_\_\_ dog came over to you within 5 seconds and stayed with you the whole time
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 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 to the dog for a full 20 seconds
- \_\_\_ dog came over within 1 second and stayed the entire 20 seconds
  - \_\_\_ dog came over within 1 second but then moved away – did this repeatedly
  - \_\_\_ *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 typical owner while handling the dog, not a skilled dog 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.**

**\* If the dog showed no sociability during the sociability test – skip the handling portion and proceed to the resource guarding tests. You can come back to the handling if you see no resource guarding behaviour.**

**Teeth Exam.** Stand next to the dog holding the leash in one hand. With the other hand lift the dog’s upper lips and hold them in that position for 5 seconds. Attempt to repeat this action 5 times in a row. Do not force the dog to accept this – release if he begins to struggle.

- \_\_\_ allows teeth to be looked at 5 times without struggle
- \_\_\_ struggles slightly but allows all 5 exams
- \_\_\_ struggles during 1 2 3 4 5 but settles with remaining 2 3 4 5 (circle appropriate)
- \_\_\_ struggles more with each exam but allows all
- \_\_\_ *struggles fiercely and does not allow a single exam*
- \_\_\_ *tries to push you away with muzzle, jumps up at you, barks at you (circle all that apply)*
- \_\_\_ *displays signs of uneasiness - stiffens, whale eye, low growl (circle all that apply)*
- \_\_\_ *whips head around towards your hand in a threatening manner*
- \_\_\_ *growls, snarls, snaps or bites (circle all that apply)*

**Handling Test.** 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 – *freezes, stiffens, whips around towards your hand, gives whale eye (indicate response)*
- 4 – *growls, snarls, snaps, tries to bite (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. wipe body with a towel	_____	_____
f. tug slightly on the collar	_____	_____
g. apply slight pressure to the dog’s shoulders	_____	_____
h. hug the dog	_____	_____

**\* a 3 or 4 during any handling exercise results in a failure of the handling test.**

**Arousal Test** Initiate play with the dog (toys, balls, tug-o-war with rope toy) for 30 seconds and then stop

- \_\_\_ nice level of play
- \_\_\_ became fearful 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***

**Food Bowl Test** - Give the dog a bowl of food. Once he is eating, use the assess-a-hand to first pet his back, then reach toward the bowl. Nudge his face a little and try to take the bowl away. Repeat this three times.

- \_\_\_ 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 or moved muzzle toward hand (circle response)
- \_\_\_ ***froze, gave whale eye, snarled (circle response)***
- \_\_\_ ***growled, lunged, snapped at, or bit assess-a-hand (circle response)***
- \_\_\_ no interest in food. TEST AGAIN LATER

**Possession Test** Give the dog a rawhide, pig ear, or piece of trash (empty hotdog wrapper, etc.). Once the dog has taken possession of the item, say “drop it” and then reach for the item using the assess-a-hand - attempting to take the item away.

- \_\_\_ readily dropped item upon request
- \_\_\_ allowed assess-a-hand or real hand to take object away (circle one)
- \_\_\_ resisted letting go of possession but did not show outward aggression
- \_\_\_ ***froze, gave whale eye, snarled (circle response)***
- \_\_\_ ***growled, lunged, snapped at, or bit assess-a-hand (circle response)***
- \_\_\_ showed no interest in any item. TEST AGAIN LATER

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

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

#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 behaviour (bared teeth, growling, lunging ) (circle)</i>

**\*\*\* Failed responses for each component test appear in italics**

**Number of Failed Components:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Comments:**

**Recommendation:** \_\_\_\_\_