

Dog assessment

How do we know which home to put the dogs in our care into ?

Do assessments work?

- What's your return to kennel rate?
- Can we put people off with our assessments?
- Can we tell what a dog will be like in a home?
- How much do they change over time in kennels? Re-assess ?

Pre intake assessment

Pre-intake Assessment

Owner's Name _____ Dogs' name _____

Age _____ Sex _____ Breed _____

Date of assessment _____ Assessor _____

<p>Reception How does dog behave in general?</p>	<p>Hides Happy Stressed – can cope Stressed – can't cope Overactive Depressed Avoidant Appeasing Aggressive</p>	<p>Please detail unusual behaviours ...</p>
<p>Reception How does dog behave in the proximity of people?</p>	<p>Hides Happy Stressed – can cope Stressed – can't cope Overactive Depressed Avoidant Appeasing Aggressive</p>	<p>Please detail unusual behaviours ...</p>
<p>Reception How does dog behave in the proximity of dogs?</p>	<p>Hides Happy Stressed – can cope Stressed – can't cope Overactive Depressed Avoidant Appeasing Aggressive</p>	<p>Please detail unusual behaviours ...</p>
<p>Reception How does dog behave when you approach?</p>	<p>Hides Happy Stressed – can cope Stressed – can't cope Overactive Depressed Avoidant Appeasing Aggressive</p>	<p>Please detail unusual behaviours ...</p>
<p>Behaviour in new/novel environment?</p>	<p>Curious Fearful Overexcited Stressed – can cope Stressed – can't cope</p>	<p>Please detail unusual behaviours ...</p>

Handling by owner(s)	Lead on and off ---- Happy Fearful Avoidant Appeasing Aggressive Being fed a titbit ---- Happy Fearful Avoidant Appeasing Aggressive Given dish of food ----Happy Fearful Avoidant Appeasing Aggressive With toys ---- Happy Fearful Avoidant Appeasing Aggressive Grooming ---- Happy Fearful Avoidant Appeasing Aggressive Restraint ---- Happy Fearful Avoidant Appeasing Aggressive Picked up/cuddled ---- Happy Fearful Avoidant Appeasing Aggressive	Describe unusual behaviours ...
Handling by assessor	Lead on and off ---- Happy Fearful Avoidant Appeasing Aggressive Being fed a titbit ---- Happy Fearful Avoidant Appeasing Aggressive Given dish of food ----Happy Fearful Avoidant Appeasing Aggressive With toys ---- Happy Fearful Avoidant Appeasing Aggressive Grooming ---- Happy Fearful Avoidant Appeasing Aggressive Restraint ---- Happy Fearful Avoidant Appeasing Aggressive Picked up/cuddled ---- Happy Fearful Avoidant Appeasing Aggressive	Describe unusual behaviours ...
Attachment to owner(s)	Secure – attached Insecure - attached Insecure – avoidant Insecure – ambivalent Insecure – disorganised	

<p>Ask owner to demonstrate any known obedience or tricks.</p>	<p>List known commands...</p>
<p>Any other relevant info from owner.</p>	<p>Detail...</p>

Formal assessment

Character/temperament Assessment

Dogs' name _____

Dog number _____

Age _____

Sex _____ Breed _____

Date dog entered kennels _____

Date of assessment _____

Assessor _____

<p>How does dog behave in kennel?</p>	<p>Hides Happy Stressed – can cope Stressed – can't cope Overactive Depressed</p>	<p>Please detail behaviours ...</p>
<p>Behaviour in new/novel environment?</p>	<p>Curious Fearful Overexcited Stressed – can cope Stressed – can't cope</p>	<p>Please detail behaviours ...</p>
<p>Does the dog exhibit any abnormal or out of context behaviours?</p>	<p>Spinning Pacing Bouncing off the wall Tail chasing Abnormal licking Excessive self grooming Constant barking Inappropriate barking Excessive sleeping Fixation on toys/water/shadows Displacements Appeasements Mounting Redirection</p>	<p>Other, please detail...</p>
<p>Handling by known people</p>	<p>Lead on and off ----- Happy Fearful Avoidant Aggressive Grooming ----- Happy Fearful Avoidant Aggressive Restraint ----- Happy Fearful Avoidant Aggressive Being picked up/cuddled - Happy Fearful Avoidant Aggressive</p>	<p>Describe behaviours ...</p>

Strange/new people	<p>Instantly friendly</p> <p>Friendly but rude/pushy</p> <p>Friendly if food used</p> <p>Friendly if toy used</p> <p>Friendly once out on a walk</p> <p>Friendly after a number of meetings</p>	<p>Aggressive/Fearful on first sight</p> <p>Aggressive/Fearful if approached</p> <p>Aggressive/Fearful if try to interact</p> <p>Aggressive/Fearful to all</p> <p>Aggressive/Fearful to some</p>	<p>Give details of aggressive or fearful behaviour ...</p>		
Attachment	Secure – attached	Insecure - attached	Insecure – avoidant	Insecure – ambivalent	Insecure – disorganised
Interactions with other dogs	<p>Can kennel with males</p> <p>Can free run with females</p>	<p>Can lead walk with</p> <p>Cannot mix</p>	<p>Prefers</p> <p>Prefers</p>	<p>Describe best type of dog to mix/kennel with...</p>	
Behaviour with food, chews & toys	<p><u>Food</u></p> <p>Does not eat well</p> <p>Bolts food</p> <p>Becomes over excited when sees bowl</p> <p>Guards food</p> <p>Will guard empty bowl</p>	<p><u>Chews/treats</u></p> <p>Shows no interest</p> <p>Carries but does not chew</p> <p>Attempts to bury/hide</p> <p>Chews calmly</p> <p>Chews frantically or chokes</p>	<p><u>Toys</u></p> <p>Ignores</p> <p>Sniffs</p> <p>Fetches</p> <p>Guards</p> <p>Plays</p>	<p>Other – please give details...</p>	

Children	Behaviour - Ignores Friendly Fearful Aggressive Ages (years)- 0-1 1-2 2-4 4-6 6-8 8-11 11-14 14-16	Describe behaviours ...
Car travel	Gets in without Hesitation Needs luring Refused to get in Travels well Barks Salivates whines	Describe behaviours...
Training	Knows basic Commands No previous training Shows appeasements when trained Displacements when trained	Describe behaviours...

reception copy

Dog's name _____ Dog number _____ Date entered kennels _____

Age _____ Sex _____ Breed _____

Other animals	dogs	cats	small furies	sheep	cattle	horses			
Children - ages (years)	0-1	1-2	2-4	4-6	6-8	8-11	11-14	14-16	Adult only
Travel	good	not used to	needs habituation						
Training	Useful but not necessary	basic obedience	further rehab required						
Exercise level	low	med	moderate	high					
Left alone	cannot be left: vocal	chewing	toileting	distressed	good: 1-4 hours	good: 4-8 hours with a break			
Visitors	fearful	friendly	needs further rehab						
Adoption procedure	standard	1-2-1	TBA	multiple visits					

Other info...

What are we assessing for?

- Type of home
- Dogs ability to cope with people
- Dog to dog interactions
- Ability to cope in kennels?

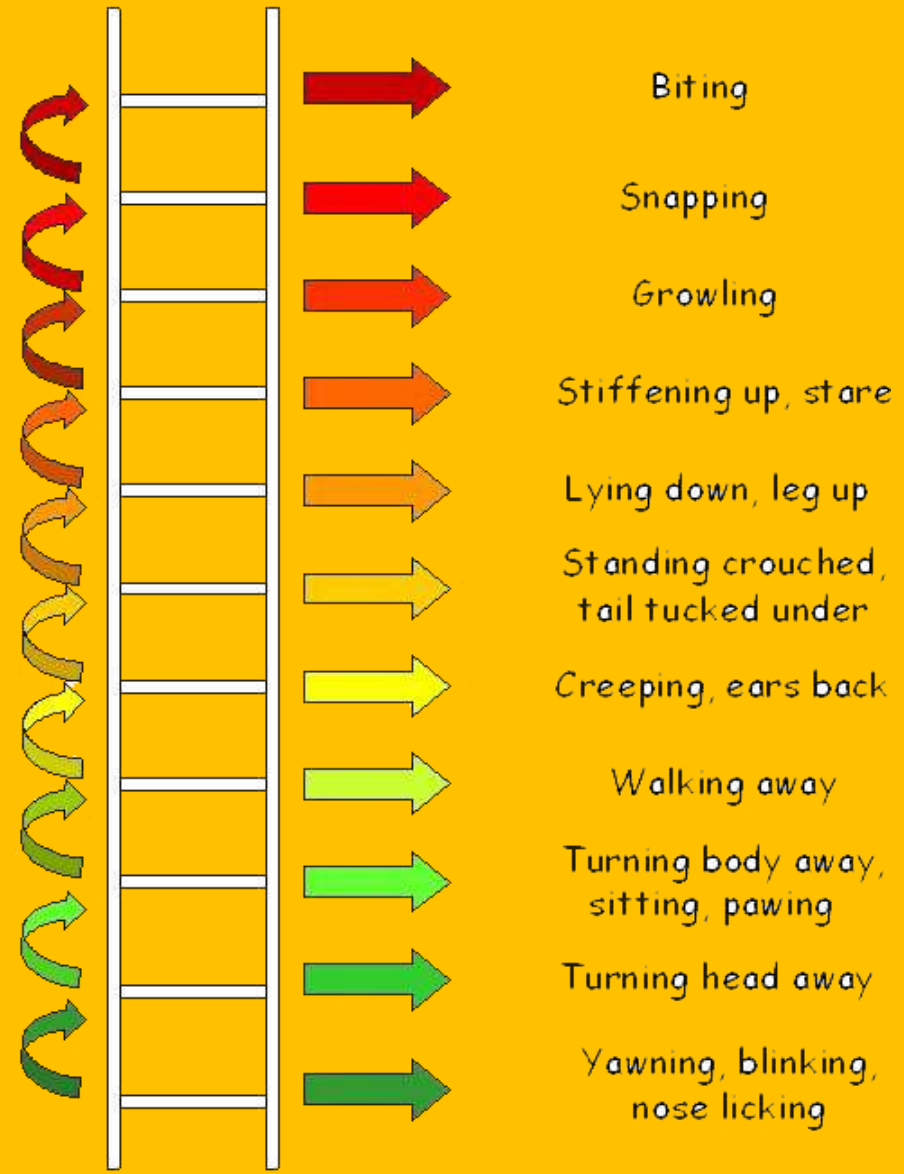
Does age make a difference?

- Do all dogs have the same needs?
- What considerations should be made for age?
- Needs?
- Practised behaviour?
- Mobility?
- Do we need to assess puppies?

Body language

- Appeasements
- Displacements
- Aggression
- Submission
- Postures

The Canine 'Ladder of Aggression'



What's going on?

















Freezing



More freezing



Wait until you see the whites of their
eyes!!!!

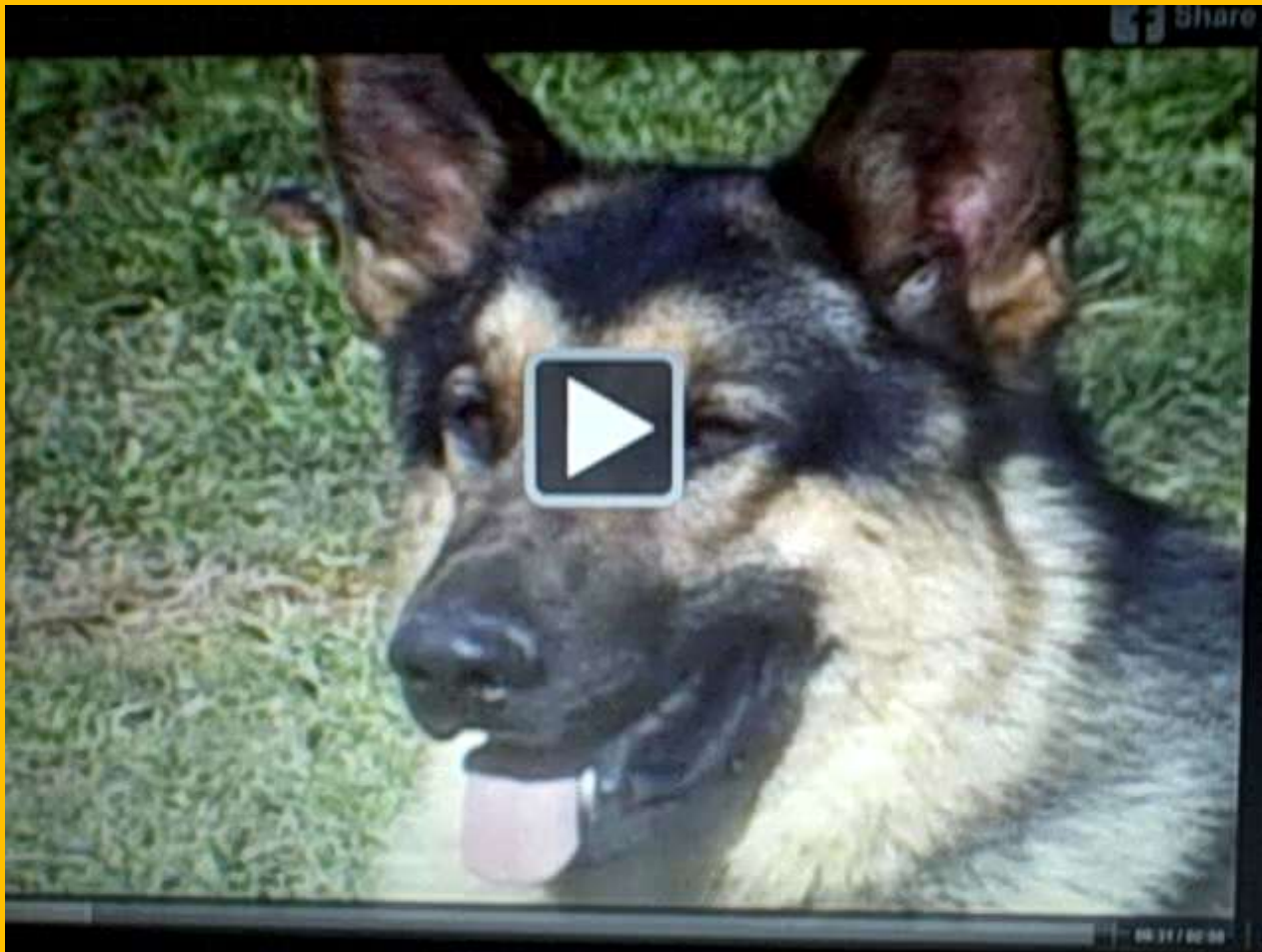




What else do we need to look for?

- **-freezing, staring**
- **- panting for no obvious reason**
- **- lip licking**
- **- yawning**
- **- paw lift**
- **- trembling**
- **- persistent salivating (for no obvious reason)**
- **- highly visible sclera**
- **- flashing of sclera**

What happens when it goes wrong?



And when we are not paying attention!



How far is too far?



Do they know it's a fake hand?

Things to remember

- Pay attention from the moment you enter the assessing area
- What is the dogs first choice?
- Look closely at the subtle body language
- Don't push the dog beyond its threshold
- Re assess in alternative environments
- Re assess after ...

What does an assessment prove?

- You only get a snapshot of that dog on a given day.
- We need to be aware of what has gone on in the dogs recent history.
- If we are unsure then re assess.
- If we are unsure then get a second opinion.

How can we improve?

- Practice
- Good observation skills
- Pay attention !!
- Discuss it with colleagues
- Video it and watch it back

Remember Most dogs don't bite



All dogs can bite

