

Behavior/Temperament Evaluation

DOG NAME HERE

Conducted February 4, 2013 at XXXXXXXXXXXX

The following evaluations were conducted on dogs owned by XXXXXXXXXXXX. The two dogs evaluated were XXXXXXXX, a large, male Mastiff; and, XXXXXXXX a male Boxer. This evaluation was the first time I have ever been in contact with the two dogs. I have never met or interacted with either dog. I conducted the evaluations at the XXXXXX dog pound in XXXXXX, NJ on February 4, 2013 and began at approximately 10:30am EST. The evaluation was recorded by my wife, Diana Coltenback, and witnessed by the Animal Control Officer, XXXXXXXXXXXX. The written evaluations that follow correspond with the video. Unlike most evaluations I perform, I conducted the evaluations in an alternating manner, starting with XXXXXXXXXXXX.

XXXXXXXXX Evaluation Part I

- I approached XXXXXXXX's kennel run, observed him briefly, and let him out of his run. As he came out of his run, I stood standing with arms slightly away from my body and allowed XXXXXXXX to sniff and inspect me. The purpose here is to evaluate how he interacts with a non-threatening stranger. He sniffed and immediately followed me as I went to get my training bag. He approached my wife and interacted with her briefly in a friendly manner. He then came back across the room where I was kneeling down looking through my bag. He came face to face with me and remained friendly.
- I took a few steps and gave XXXXXXXX a sit command. He sat and I offered him a treat and he took the treat very gently. He accepted petting on his head readily without apprehension. His body language was relaxed and friendly.
- The stare test was conducted next in which I take his head in my hands and firmly hold his head in place and stare him in the eyes to test his capacity to be challenged forcefully. Although, he did not keep his head still and was uncomfortable with me grabbing and holding his head, at no time did he react aggressively or in a manner that caused me concern. I finished this off with a few hard, rewarding pats on his side. His body language remained stable. His tail was low (not tucked) and wagging.
- Physical Manipulation: Massage test – Here I firmly massage his body to determine if he is uncomfortable with invasive physical interaction. He initially enjoyed the touch. However, I noticed the middle of his back was very sensitive. This could indicate a problem area, physically. Large breed dogs often have back and joint issues. Although, he was obviously

sensitive to being touched there, he did not react negatively. I continued with further physical interaction with him. I pulled and yanked his tail. He licked my hands but at no time opened his mouth and made contact to my hand with his teeth while I pulled his tail. I then grabbed his jowls (cheeks) with both hands. He seemed to enjoy it and attempted to jump on me in a friendly manner. I immediately told him off and he responded accordingly. I then probed under his belly and pressed his stomach and grabbed his penis. There was no negative reaction on his part. I then put him back in his run to work with XXXXXXXX.

XXXXXXXX Evaluation Part I

- I let XXXXXXXX out of his run and he approached me enthusiastically, tail wagging and he was excited, but not overly so. He sniffed me and then approached my training bag on the floor. I directed him away from the bag with an “eh-eh” command and responded accordingly. I then called him to me and gave him a sit command. He sat, I offered a treat, he took it gently. I noticed he was not neutered at the time of this evaluation. He should be neutered as soon as possible.
- I then gave him a down command, lured with a treat and he did not lay down. This is merely an indication that he was either never trained or he was uncomfortable to go into a down position. He then approached my wife and sniffed and interacted with her in a friendly manner.
- Physical Manipulation: I called XXXXXXXX back over to me and began to interact with him physically and forcefully. He was apprehensive and showed some anxiety. His docked tail was low and would have been tucked had he still had his tail intact. His ears were low and back – a clear sign on apprehension. I grabbed his scruff (rear of neck behind head), forcefully, and he froze but at no time overreacted or attempted to bite or escape my grasp. I then pet him forcefully and took clumps of his short hair off of him as I raked his back with my fingers. I then reached under his belly and grabbed his penis. No negative reaction on his part. I then took his jowls and did a brief stare test. He accepted my grasp. However, he did lick his lips briefly – a clear sign of anxiety. I gave him a couple of pats on his chest and he hopped in a playful manner. I returned him to his run to reconvene with XXXXXXXX.

XXXXXXXX Evaluation Part II

- Upon taking XXXXXXXX out the second time, I immediately grabbed his paw to conduct a pinch test on his paw. This is where I pinch hard between his toes to see what, if any, reaction I get. He attempted to pull his paw away, which is normal, but at no time reacted in an aggressive manner. I gave him gratuitous praise and he responded playfully by trying to jump and interact. I reprimanded him verbally, he responded appropriately.

- I then made him sit and stepped on his paw. He moved out of the way but at no time retaliated. As he walked away, I grabbed his tail again and pulled him towards me. Absolutely no adverse reaction on his part. He sat again and I mounted him as if mounting a horse to determine his response to a very invasive behavior by a human and to duplicate a potential real life scenario – many large breed dogs are often mounted by children in a playful way. His tail remained low and relaxed and his ears were soft and relaxed as well. I then made him sit again and proceeded to step on his tail. He did not react at all.
- The next test I performed was to grab his scruff and force him to the floor. Surprising to me due to his size, this was hardly a chore as he seemed to enjoy the interaction and allowed me to force him down easily. I probed him some more and then did a pinch test on his rear foot. He licked my hand and did not act negatively. I then grabbed his ears and pulled slightly on them. Once again, he did not overreact or act aggressively or in any manner that concerned me. I proceed to initiate play with him and responded playfully. I then lifted him up by his chest with his front legs off the ground. He seemed to enjoy this interaction.
- The final test on XXXXXXXX was to introduce a highly desirable resource (cow ear) to determine if there was any aggression with food. I placed the ear in front of him and prevented him, verbally and physically, from getting the treat. He ultimately lay down and submitted to my direction. He proceeded to go on his side and actually offered me some kisses. I reciprocated and then put him back in his run and gave him his reward.

XXXXXXX Evaluation Part II

- I then took XXXXXXXX out of his run again. He was very excited and still seemed a bit apprehensive and anxious. I immediately mounted him and picked him up by his chest. He accepted this physical manipulation and actually maintained a relaxed manner, indicated by his open, panting mouth. I then lifted him by his belly, lifting his rear off the ground. I also grabbed his scruff briefly. Although he showed some sensitivity to this, he did not react negatively. I tried to get him to down again and he did show some shyness to my fast hand movement around his head.
- I then initiated play with XXXXXXXX. Although apprehensive, he did respond in a playful, non-threatening way.
- After putting him in a sit again, I did a pinch test on each of his front paws without incident. I then grabbed each ear and noticed some concern on XXXXXXXX's part. But, again, at no time did he overreact in a negative way. I stepped on a few of his paws as well. Aside from moving his paws out of the way, he did not attempt to bite my foot or act aggressively. I probed his back again in a firm, massaging way, I grabbed probed under his belly and put my hands on his genitals and there were no areas of concern here. Additionally, I manipulated his rear legs with no reaction on his part.

- I attempted to lure him into a down position with a treat to no avail. Like XXXXXXXX, XXXXXXXX was likely never exposed to sustained obedience training. I then proceeded to force him down by his scruff. This was his strongest display of anxiety throughout my entire interaction with him. He resisted my force with equal force and was not inclined to be forced down. I withdrew my force and grabbed his scruff hard and pulled up. He showed obvious stress to this invasive approach but at no time reacted aggressively.
- I performed the same resource test on XXXXXXXX using a cow ear. He responded very well to this and did not attempt to get the ear on his own accord and looked to me for direction. At this time, I also inspected his ears and mouth and he allowed this inspection with no problem. When I put him back into his run, I entered the run with him to make sure there was no food or other guarding behavior present (in his run was the cow ear and a full bowl of food). He sat for me and I then exited his run.

XXXXXXX Evaluation Part III

- I took XXXXXXXX out of his run one last time to inspect his ears and mouth. Although he was a bit fidgety, he allowed me to probe his ears and mouth and showed no signs of anxiety or aggression. I then entered his run with him to insure he did not have any guarding behaviors either (in his run was the cow ear and a full bowl of food). My presence in his run was also accepted without incident.

NOTE: I was unable to conduct a dog on dog test as there were no dogs available at the pound for me to use. This was merely a poor assumption on my part in that I assumed there would be dogs at the pound that I could have used to test XXXXXXXX and XXXXXXXX's behavior around other dogs. This test can be conducted at a future date if need be.

Conclusion

This evaluation had gone far better than I expected. I was aware of the breeds involved prior to conducting the evaluations. And, I anticipated some breed traits to surface, like guarding and/or territoriality. However, none such behaviors were presented. XXXXXXX is an extremely sweet, mild-mannered and tolerant dog. He is very social and appears to embrace human interaction. He did not exhibit any signs of stress and anxiety at any time during the evaluation. He appears to be a very even keeled, typical pet.

XXXXXXX, much like XXXXXXX, is a sweet and playful dog. However, he showed anxiety from the first moment I let him out of his run all the way to the end. He seems to be very sensitive to invasive touch and interactions. Yet, all along he responded to commands and reprimands. He looked to me for direction which is a clear indication of his willingness to respond to his handler. He is not neutered and I strongly recommend that he be fixed.

Both dogs overall are average dogs. Although sweet, playful and tolerant, their obedience commands are lacking. Obedience should be a priority to the owner. Both dogs exhibited an eagerness to please. This willingness on their part will make continued training pretty easy. I have been around hundreds of dogs with true behavioral issues that pose a potential risk to people. Neither of these dogs offered any indication that they pose a risk to the public. However, due to their size and strength; precautions should be made to insure they do not run at large again. I saw no behavioral reason why these two dogs can't continue to be loving, household pets.

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