

Behavioral Assessment:

Dog Name	Melody #7
ID NO:	25-102
Arrival Date:	3/30
Date Tested:	5/29
Tested By:	HH
Test Level: <i>(See level descriptions at the end of the test assessment.)</i>	5

Behavior Assessment is a standard practice of rescues and shelters to evaluate the personality and behavior of the dogs in the program. The purpose of the test is to gain an understanding of the dog's character. The test is performed a minimum of 3 to 5 days after the dog's arrival as some dogs may be stressed when they first arrive and testing during this time may not be an accurate assessment. Although all efforts are made with the end goal of making the best possible placement for both the dog and owner, it is impossible to guarantee the personality and behavior of any dog. The behavior assessment is not an express or implied warranty or guarantee of any kind of the dog's personality and behavior. We strongly advise that you monitor your dog closely and use caution/discretion as to with whom and under what circumstances interactions are allowed with your dog until you have fully acclimated the dog to its new surroundings and have formed your own observation and assessments of the dog's personality and behavior after acclimation to its new placement.

GENERAL BEHAVIOR:

These questions are designed to determine how the dog interacts with strangers and to get a feel for the dog's general demeanor.

MEETING PEOPLE

<input type="checkbox"/>	Friendly, eager to associate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cautious/apprehensive, then relaxed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Barks, growls or shows signs of discomfort
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Avoids/ignores
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other, please describe:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is dog anxious or stressed? If so, list signs:

ON LEASH

Leash Manners

<input type="checkbox"/>	Walks well
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pulls constantly
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lags behind, needs encouragement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Darts from side to side
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pulls to access other dogs or people
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fearful of leash

Reaction to dogs while on leash

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fine; no problems noted
<input type="checkbox"/>	Friendly; wants to play
<input type="checkbox"/>	Indifferent/ignores
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pulls/lunges
<input type="checkbox"/>	Growls or barks
<input type="checkbox"/>	Okay at distance, not face to face

CONFIDENCE LEVEL

Standing overhead with three strokes down the back

<input type="checkbox"/>	Happy and affectionate; dog likes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stiff, statue, flinches
<input type="checkbox"/>	Walks away is indifferent

Teeth examination

<input type="checkbox"/>	No reaction; dog is fine
<input type="checkbox"/>	? Wiggles or shakes to get away; little reaction
<input type="checkbox"/>	Growls, lip curls; does not like

Hugs

<input type="checkbox"/>	Happy and affectionate; dog likes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pulls away
<input type="checkbox"/>	Goes belly up or flattens out
<input type="checkbox"/>	Urinate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stiff, statue
<input type="checkbox"/>	Growls, barks or snaps; does not like

Push on shoulders

<input type="checkbox"/>	Playful, interactive
<input type="checkbox"/>	Playful, mouthy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Timid, shies away
<input type="checkbox"/>	Timid, crawls back to tester
<input type="checkbox"/>	Indifferent, no reaction
<input type="checkbox"/>	Whips head around
<input type="checkbox"/>	Growls, lip curls or snarls
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other: did not attempt

Sensitivity to Handling

<input type="checkbox"/>	Grabbing collar
<input type="checkbox"/>	Touching feet
<input type="checkbox"/>	Touching tail
<input type="checkbox"/>	Looking in ears
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other: Very scared, sensitive to everything
<input type="checkbox"/>	None observed

Arousal:

Some dogs may tend to guard resources, such as toys, bones or other objects. In this test (while off leash), we initiate play, and, when the dog is at its highest level of play intensity, we take possession of the toy and stand still.

Dog's Reaction

<input type="checkbox"/>	Nice level of play
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Played with encouragement – with dogs
<input type="checkbox"/>	Became highly aroused (jumped up, body slammed, mouthed) but calmed down quickly
<input type="checkbox"/>	Became highly aroused (jumped up, body slammed, mouthed) and stayed that way after the interaction stopped
<input type="checkbox"/>	Became fearful
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Showed little/no interest in playing – with people

Preferred toy

<input type="checkbox"/>	Balls
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bones
<input type="checkbox"/>	Squeak Toy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rope Toys
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stuffed Toys
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chews Up Stuffed Toys

Comments:

FOOD GUARDING:

Some dogs become protective of their food bowls or other food objects, and may growl or try to bite when approached. The first test indicates if the dog will react if an artificial hand is presented to the dog without food nearby. The second test determines the dogs' tolerance for being petted while eating, and having someone try to put hands in their bowl.

Assess hand reaction without food present

<input type="checkbox"/>	Fine, no reaction
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wanted to play with hand
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Timid, shy

Assess hand reaction with food present

<input type="checkbox"/>	Fine, no reaction
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eats extremely fast
<input type="checkbox"/>	Body blocks
<input type="checkbox"/>	Freezes, lip curls or growls

<input type="checkbox"/>	Bites hand
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other: will not eat in my presence, no aggression

ENVIRONMENTAL:

Tests skills related to the dog's environment and social skills.

Ability to use steps

<input type="checkbox"/>	Fine; no problems noted
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fearful; will not attempt
<input type="checkbox"/>	Slowly; may need assistance and/or encouragement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Unable; mobility limitations

MANNERS AND OBEDIENCE SKILLS:

Tests dog's basic skill and provides insight on what motivates dog for further development.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Appears to have no training (mark with "x" if appropriate)
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Commands test

<input type="checkbox"/>	Sit
<input type="checkbox"/>	Down
<input type="checkbox"/>	Come
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stay
<input type="checkbox"/>	Give Paw/Shake
<input type="checkbox"/>	Drop
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

Dog is motivated with

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Food
<input type="checkbox"/>	Praise
<input type="checkbox"/>	Toys
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other: dogs

Ease of training

	Easy
	Moderate
x	Difficult – needs to gain trust and confidence

BEHAVIOR CHALLENGES:

Behavior Traits Observed	None Observed	Moderate Concern	Significant Concern
Jumping on people	X		
Mouthing (grabbing clothes, arms, legs with mouth)	X		
Jumping or climbing fences – if cornered or panic		x	
Digging in yard	X		
Urinating when excited	X		
Mounting people (“humping”)	X		
Mounting other dogs	X		
Counter Surfing	X		
Anxiety when left alone	X		
Other: extreme fear of people			x
Other:			

Evaluation Snapshot:

Comparison rating of the dog regarding various traits and behaviors:

Confident					x	Timid
Independent	x					Dependent
Tolerant					x	Sensitive
Attentive			x			Distracted
Gentle	x					Rough
Calm	x					High Energy
Appeasing			x			Assertive
Playful					x	Serious
Outgoing					x	Reserved
People Centered					x	Environment Centered
Resilient					x	Slow to Recover
Shares Well	x					Guards Resource

Best Type of Environment:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Calm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Busy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chaotic
<input type="checkbox"/>	Any

Best Type of Owner:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Experienced
<input type="checkbox"/>	Capable
<input type="checkbox"/>	Novice
<input type="checkbox"/>	Any

LEVEL SUMMARY DESCRIPTIONS:**Level 1:**

Super easy, low energy, no issues; would do well in virtually any home regardless of owner experience.

Level 2:

Low to moderate energy though some activity may induce high energy. Needs average leadership; generally lacks obedience or house manners. Could be shy, quiet or outgoing but not difficult. Dog may have minor issues that are easy to address and is a good dog.

Level 3:

Moderate, high or very high energy/drive. Needs an owner experienced with leadership and proper management. Typically good dog but may have challenging behavior. Could be dog reactive or aggressive and possibly the only animal in a home.

Level 4:

Intense focus and/or extreme energy/drive. Could be a dog for fly ball, agility or other sporting abilities. Can be strong, pushy or dominant. Needs experienced owner that has commitment to provide the dog with the guidance and training he/she needs to be successful.

Level 5:

Extreme lack of social skills regarding humans; needs a canine mentor. Requires owner commitment and patience to allow dog to grow at its own pace and increase confidence.

ONGOING OBSERVATION:**POTTY HABITS**

Dated Tested:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Routine, no problems noted
<input type="checkbox"/>	Occasional accident in kennel, not a serious issue
<input type="checkbox"/>	Frequent accidents, will likely need remedial house training post adoption

Comments:

NOTES:

Melody's background is uncertain.

It is apparent she has been severely neglected, traumatized, no social skills.

The staff here at DVGRR have given her true sanctuary to make progress at her will.

She never has potty accidents and will calmly walk outside and follow the other dogs to do her business.

She is very sensitive to being touched.

Her family should be prepared for a challenge, but a big reward for when she makes progress and feels safe.

She has started taking treats from several of our staff and allows some gentle petting.

Great with other dogs.