

# BEHAVIORAL EVALUATION

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Dog's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Sex \_\_\_\_\_ ID# \_\_\_\_\_

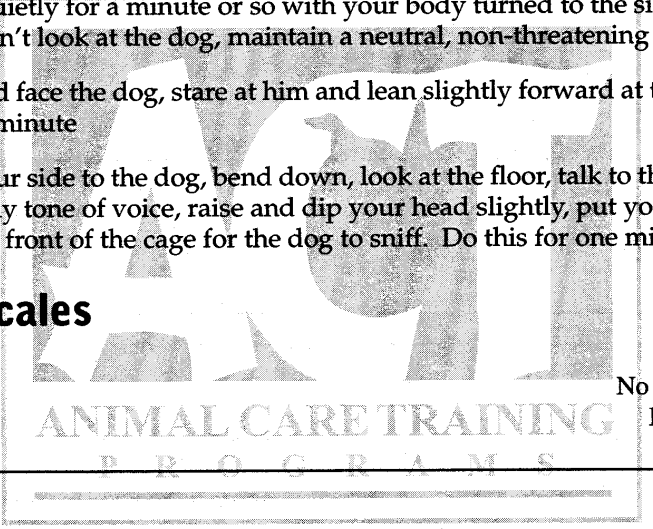
Evaluator \_\_\_\_\_

## Step 1. Watching the Dog in the Kennel

Rate the dog on the following scales for each of these three phases. Put the letter of the phase (A, B or C) at that point on each scale that best describes how the dog reacted to that phase. Make note of the specifics of the dog's behavior and any other information that will help interpret the behavior.

- A. Stand quietly for a minute or so with your body turned to the side of the cage, don't look at the dog, maintain a neutral, non-threatening posture.
- B. Turn and face the dog, stare at him and lean slightly forward at the waist for one minute
- C. Turn your side to the dog, bend down, look at the floor, talk to the dog in a friendly tone of voice, raise and dip your head slightly, put your hand near the front of the cage for the dog to sniff. Do this for one minute.

## Rating Scales



Very Friendly ← No Friendly Behavior

← No Fearful Behavior → Very Fearful

No Threatening Behavior ← → Very Threatening

### Notes

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# CANINE BEHAVIOR

## *Body Postures*

What do you think the intentions of this dog are? Is he likely to bite you? Is he bluffing? Or is he just playing? How can you best interact with this dog in a safe, efficient and humane way? Every day hundreds of people are bitten by dogs and every day hundreds of dogs are mistreated, in part because people do not understand what dogs are communicating, or trying to tell them. The science of animal behavior can help you to understand the motivations of dogs and to predict their behavior. This videotape will introduce you to the communication system of dogs and show you how you can use this knowledge to understand and be better at predicting the behavior of dogs in a variety of situations that you may be faced with.

### **How Dogs Communicate**

Dogs communicate through vocalizations with body through direct contact and with scents or smells. Communication often involves more than one signal—in addition to barking, this dog is also communicating through body postures such as. Multiple signals reduce the possibility of misunderstandings. Barking has many different meanings, but because of this dog's body posture, its clear the dog is being. These communication signals provide information about the dog's emotional state or motivation. When you know the dog's motivation, you are better able to predict what he is likely to do next.

### **What to Observe**

As you can see, when you observe a dog, there are many things you must pay attention to. It means you must train yourself to be aware of such things as ear and tail positions, where the dog is looking, how the dog holds himself, if he is showing his teeth, and if so how, and what kinds of vocalizations he is making. Keep in mind that there is no one feature that will always give you reliable predictions about a dog's behavior. This is because different dogs don't always use these features in the same way or some features aren't always present. Not all dogs have tails, for example. Also, different features can have different meanings in different situations or when combined with other features. For example, a growl isn't always a threat by a dog. Sometimes dogs growl when playing. You will need to look at the context or situation and the other features of the dog to help you figure out the intentions of the dog.