

SAFER Test

Date: _____ Time: _____
Handler: _____ Observer: _____ Animal ID#: _____
Dogs Name: _____ Age: _____ Color: _____ Breed: _____
Sex: _____ Altered: _____ Date entered shelter: _____

The Stare Test:

- ___ Grade A: Dog leans forward to lick handlers face with tail wagging, ears back and eyes averted.
- ___ Grade A: Dog's eyes are averted, with tail wagging and ears back.
- ___ Grade A: Dog's eyes are averted. His ears are back, his tail is down, and has a relaxed body posture.
- ___ Grade B: Dog's eyes are averted. His body posture is stiff and fearful, his tail is low and not moving.
- ___ Grade B: Dog pulls out of handler's hands repeatedly before eye contact can be made.
- ___ Grade C: Dog jumps on handler, consistently rubs his shoulders on the handler, will not allow handler to conduct the test.
- ___ Grade D: Dog holds eye contact while remaining motionless with ears forward.
- ___ Grade F: Dog growls and tries to bite.

The Sensitivity Test:

- ___ Grade A: Dog leans into the handler, wagging his body, dog's mouth is open and body relaxed.
- ___ Grade A: Dog stands still and accepts the touch, eyes are averted, and his tail is in neutral position with relaxed body posture.
- ___ Grade B: Dog displays high energy and movement, but it is directed toward getting closer to the handler.
- ___ Grade B: Dog stands still and accepts the touch, eyes are averted, tail is between his legs, and he is obviously uncomfortable.
- ___ Grade B: Dog repeatedly turns toward the handler's hand, with loose body and open mouth, mouths the hand, but does not apply pressure.
- ___ Grade B: Dog is active and focused on handler and all other stimuli available.
- ___ Grade C: Dog stands tall and square. Tail perpendicular to spine. Mouth closed for the majority of test.
- ___ Grade C: Dog repeatedly turns toward the handler's hand with a fast head movement. His body is stiff and has a closed mouth. He mouths the hand with little to moderate pressure.
- ___ Grade C: Dog is not fearful and is struggling to get away. The dog is not focused and is in constant movement, unconnected to the handler.
- ___ Grade F: Dog tries to bite.

The Tag Test:

- ___ Grade A: Dog assumes play position and joins the game
- ___ Grade A: Dog stands with his tail low and wagging, and comes toward the handler in a friendly manner when the handler ceases moving.
- ___ Grade B: Dog is fearful and unresponsive when touched, but approaches the handler when the game ends.
- ___ Grade B: Dog is fearful but is unresponsive, but approaches the handler when coaxed at the end of the game.
- ___ Grade C: Dog spins toward the touch with head flips.
- ___ Grade C: Dog responds with tail high, ears forward and displays lots of vertical movement and heavy body checking to the handler.
- ___ Grade D: Dog panics with vocalization (combined tail tuck, yelping, and trying to exit the situation)
- ___ Grade F: Dog stands his ground while not cornered and barks at the handler with ears forward.
- ___ Grade F: Dog tries to bite.

The Pinch Test:

Note: If the dogs reacts strongly when you first pick up the dog's paw, use the back of the hip (below the anus)

- ___ Grade A: Dog gently pulls back his paw.
- ___ Grade A: Dog does not respond at all. His eyes are averted and his ears are relaxed or back.
- ___ Grade B: Dog gently pulls back and whimpers.
- ___ Grade B: Dog gently places his open mouth on the handlers hand without applying pressure.
- ___ Grade C: Dog closes mouth, becomes stiff.
- ___ Grade C: Dog head flips while pulling back paw.
- ___ Grade F: Dog growls.
- ___ Grade F: Dog tries to bite.

If hip is used:

- Grade A: Dog sits, mouth open or lip long.
- Grade A: Dog does not respond at all.
- Grade B: Dog gently places his open mouth over the handler's hand without applying pressure.
- Grade C: Dog closes mouth, begins to purse lips and becomes stiff.
- Grade C: Dog head flips while moving hip away.
- Grade D: Dog growls.
- Grade F: Dog tries to bite.

Pinch Test Second Attempt:

- Grade A: Dog gently pulls paw back.
- Grade A: Dog does not respond at all. His eyes are averted and his ears are relaxed or back.
- Grade B: Dog gently pulls back and whimpers.
- Grade B: Dog gently places his open mouth on the handlers hand without applying pressure.
- Grade C: Dog yelps repeatedly or screams.
- Grade C: Dog head flips while pulling back paw.
- Grade D: Dog reaches toward the handlers hand on the second attempt while moving his paw away when the handler attempts to pick it up. The dog will not let the handler test a second time.
- Grade F: Dog freezes and growls or tries to bite.

If hip is used:

- Grade A: Dog sits, mouth open or lip long.
- Grade A: Dog does not respond at all.
- Grade B: Dog gently places his open mouth over the handler's hand without applying pressure.
- Grade C: Dog closes mouth, begins to purse lips and becomes stiff.
- Grade C: Dog head flips while moving hip away.
- Grade D: Dog reaches toward the handler's hand on the second attempt, while shifting hip away when handler attempts to touch it. The dog will not allow the handler to test the second time.
- Grade D: Dog growls.
- Grade F: Dog tries to bite.

Food Aggression Test:

Note: If the dog does not eat, try another type of food. If necessary, retest at a later point.

- Grade A: Dog lifts head and ceases eating.
- Grade A: Dog calmly allows food to be moved, follows the dish, but doesn't interfere with the dish's movement. The dog's tail is low and wagging.
- Grade B: Dog follows the dish with his tail down, but not between his legs, ears are back.
- Grade C: Dog follows the dish, his tail between his legs and his ears forward.
- Grade C: Dog gulps food, begins to eat faster, and with bigger bites.
- Grade C: Dog body blocks bowl by placing his body between the bowl and tester. Body remains soft.
- Grade D: Dog body blocks bowl by placing his body between the bowl and tester. Body becomes stiff.
- Grade D: Dog growls or freezes.
- Grade F: Dog leaves bowl to bite.

Toy Test:

Note: Recommended to use 2 items.

- Grade A: No interest
- Grade A: Dog settles down close to chew, will drop toy for you.
- Grade A: Dog settles close, keeps a firm grip but wags and is wormy and silly. Does not place body between you and toy.
- Grade B: Dog takes toy away, keeps a firm hold. His body is between you and the toy and he is loose and wiggly. No growling or stiffness.
- Grade C: Dog takes toy away, keeps a firm hold. His body is stiff.
- Grade D: Dog stiffens, freezes, or growls on approach.
- Grade F: Dog leaves toy to attempt a bite.

#A's: _____ #B's: _____ #C's: _____ #D's: _____ #F's: _____

Adoption Recommendations:

Handler Notes:
