

B. A. R. C.

Behavior Assessment & Reactivity Checklist

Bound Angels – www.boundangels.org

Dogs must be on a slip lead at all times during the assessment process.

Behavior / Reactivity			
<p><u>Kennel Approach</u> <i>Approach kennel – wait – observe. Open gate, turn sideways and crouch. Talk to the dog in a calm voice. Observe dog's behaviors.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Approaches in a friendly manner. <input type="checkbox"/> Soft/friendly. <input type="checkbox"/> Relaxed, playful, aloof.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Excitable response to presence. <input type="checkbox"/> Fearful regression with no aggression cautious/tense/still. <input type="checkbox"/> Defensive reactions: lunging and regressing.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Lunges to attack: baring teeth, hackles up, stiff posture, eyes glaring.</p>
<p><u>Possession</u> <i>Use a toy or ball with a rope attached to one end. Once dog is engaged, attempt to remove toy by use of the rope. Offer the dog a treat in exchange for the toy.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Gives up easily, overall playful attitude. <input type="checkbox"/> Slight resistance to toy removal, but gives in with slight correction / shows no interest in toy. <input type="checkbox"/> Dog takes toy and hides / plays keep away.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Possessive over toy / strong resistance / no aggression. <input type="checkbox"/> Threatens to retain-no follow through. <input type="checkbox"/> Playful growling / engaging</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Growls, freezes, snaps when approaching. Becomes aggressive with follow through- injurious</p>
<p><u>Touch / Handling</u> Gently touch head & body. Touch backside & underneath dog – front and back. Apply slight pressure to shoulders, back & hips. Stroke tail and hold for a brief moment. Rub ears & cover one eye. Approach dog from the rear.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Softens with petting engages tester. Licks, nuzzles, seeks attention, rolls onto back. <input type="checkbox"/> Moves away in a neutral manner. <input type="checkbox"/> Accepts but does not seek additional contact.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Over stimulated, gets mouthy – follows hand. <input type="checkbox"/> Skittish, avoidant / hind quarter / tail sensitivity. <input type="checkbox"/> Actively avoidant / extremely stiff or overly jumpy when touched.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Aggresses with follow through- injurious</p>
<p><u>Food</u> Offer dog a treat (3-6" jerky strip), allow dog to take it. Offer another treat, as he begins to bite, gently remove/pull back treat. Drop a treat on ground, when dog sees it cover it with your foot. When dog is eating treat begin some mild general handling.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Indifferent or friendly. <input type="checkbox"/> Confused (looks up at you). <input type="checkbox"/> Dog is assertive (digs at the treat), gets pushy for treat / follows treat with focus.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Growls <input type="checkbox"/> Hoards/stills <input type="checkbox"/> Threatens to retain- no follow through.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Aggresses with follow through- injurious</p>
<p><u>Correction</u> Walk dog near other people and distractions. Let him sniff or become interested in something for a few moments and then give a slight tug on the leash and a verbal re-direction. * This is not a correction for doing anything wrong. We are only looking for a reaction to the pressure on the leash.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Easily redirects to handler / compliant <input type="checkbox"/> Slow to correct, but follows. Needs second or multiple correction(s). <input type="checkbox"/> Ignores handler & correction and continues.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Drops in fear, defensive posture. <input type="checkbox"/> Becomes unresponsive. <input type="checkbox"/> Fights against correction & becomes stubborn to comply.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Redirects aggressively towards handler and attempts to or does bite.</p>

<p><u>Dominance</u> Push down on a dog's shoulders using hands and/or forearm. Maintain pressure for a moment.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Melts under slight pressure / submissive. <input type="checkbox"/> Remains neutral. <input type="checkbox"/> Unresponsive.	<input type="checkbox"/> Stiffens up in reaction. <input type="checkbox"/> Turns in strong way toward handler. <input type="checkbox"/> Feels uncomfortable with situation	<input type="checkbox"/> Growls/snaps at handler in a dominant manner. Aggresses with follow through- injurious.
<p><u>Dog to Dog Intro</u> Start test through fence or at a distance. Walk dog being tested by a neutral dog a few times (giving praise/reward for good behavior) then allow him to go and greet the other dog. Keep leash loose. Allow sniffing for 3-4 seconds, then separate and re-introduce.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Interested/social toward other dog / soft body. <input type="checkbox"/> Approaches neutral or playfully (play bow). <input type="checkbox"/> Uninterested in an aloof way / remains indifferent doesn't engage other dog.	<input type="checkbox"/> Rude interaction, posturing, vocal. <input type="checkbox"/> Does not read cut off signals / growling, slight lunging, hackles up. <input type="checkbox"/> Aggresses with any interaction but controllable with correction(s).	<input type="checkbox"/> Offensive or injurious aggression to handler or other dog.
<p><u>Dog to Dog Food Issues</u> Introduce another dog into the immediate (but not reachable) vicinity of test dog: Offer other dog treat while ignoring test dog. Bring dogs close together and drop treats for one dog and some for other dog.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Ignores treats while other dog eats. <input type="checkbox"/> Does not interfere when other dog is eating. <input type="checkbox"/> Take treats at same time from ground, not forceful.	<input type="checkbox"/> Threatens to retain & pushes other dog for his treats. <input type="checkbox"/> Aggresses to retain/obtain, growls, postures. <input type="checkbox"/> Leaves treat to aggress, or guards in a dominant aggressive manner.	<input type="checkbox"/> Aggresses toward handler. Pursues aggression -injurious.
<p><u>Overall Behavior</u> General overall observations. This is a general picture of your experience with the dog during your entire interaction with him/her.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Relaxed, friendly, easy to handle, playful. <input type="checkbox"/> No signs of kennel stress. <input type="checkbox"/> Not seeking attention / neutral / cautious, slow to engage, calm.	<input type="checkbox"/> Signs of kennel stress / spinning/pacing. <input type="checkbox"/> Jumps on handler / mouthy. <input type="checkbox"/> Checked out / shaking/hiding / avoids interaction / fearful.	<input type="checkbox"/> Aggressively interacts, aggresses toward handler, pursues handler aggressively.

Date: _____ Animal ID#: _____ Assessor: _____

Notes (continue on back if necessary):

• *This assessment checklist is to be used in association with the Behavior Assessment & Reactivity Checklist available on boundangels.org.*

• *The utmost care should be taken by employees and staff to assure their safety at all times during interaction. If at anytime the situation shows signs of danger, the assessment should be stopped and resumed at a later time with another assessor present.*

• *There is no pass or fail for BARC. It is designed to be used as an assessment tool to best determine suitable homes / rescues for shelter dogs.*