

DOG DAYCARE AGGRESSION & TEMPERAMENT SCREENING CHECKLIST

Facility: ____

Dog's Name: ____

Breed/Mix: ____

Age: _

Sex: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Spayed/Neutered: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Date of Evaluation: ____

Evaluator: ____

1. OWNER DISCLOSURE & BEHAVIOR HISTORY

The owner must complete the following before the dog is accepted into daycare.

Has your dog ever:

- ☐ Bitten a person?
- ☐ Bitten another dog?
- ☐ Broken skin during a bite?
- ☐ Been involved in a serious dog fight?
- ☐ Been expelled or refused by another daycare, boarding facility, groomer, veterinarian, or dog park?
- ☐ Growled, snapped, or lunged at another dog?
- ☐ Growled, snapped, or lunged at a person?
- ☐ Guarded food, treats, toys, beds, or other objects?
- ☐ Guarded or become possessive of their owner?
- ☐ Shown aggression when being touched, picked up, restrained, or handled?
- ☐ Become aggressive during grooming, nail trimming, or veterinary care?
- ☐ Chased, grabbed, injured, or killed a smaller animal?
- ☐ Displayed extreme fear, panic, or escape behavior?
- ☐ Required a muzzle for handling or veterinary care?

If YES to any question above, explain in detail:

Owner Signature: ____

Date: ____

2. INITIAL ARRIVAL & HANDLER ASSESSMENT

Observe the dog before introducing them to other dogs.

Behavior	Yes	No	Notes
Approaches staff willingly	☐	☐	
Allows leash handling	☐	☐	
Allows collar/harness handling	☐	☐	
Accepts calm physical contact	☐	☐	
Shows excessive fear	☐	☐	
Freezes or becomes rigid	☐	☐	
Growls or bares teeth	☐	☐	
Snaps or attempts to bite	☐	☐	
Lunges toward people or dogs	☐	☐	
Excessively pulls toward other dogs	☐	☐	
Can redirect attention to handler	☐	☐	
Responds to name or recall	☐	☐	
Settles after initial excitement	☐	☐	

Overall Initial Impression:

- ☐ Calm
 - ☐ Friendly
 - ☐ Excited but manageable
 - ☐ Nervous
 - ☐ Fearful
 - ☐ Highly aroused
 - ☐ Reactive
 - ☐ Requires further evaluation
-

3. HUMAN HANDLING TOLERANCE

The dog should be evaluated for its ability to tolerate normal daycare handling.

Dog allows staff to:

- ☐ Touch head and neck
- ☐ Touch shoulders and back
- ☐ Touch paws
- ☐ Inspect collar or harness
- ☐ Guide by leash
- ☐ Move away from an object
- ☐ Enter and exit gates
- ☐ Be gently restrained if necessary
- ☐ Be redirected from unwanted behavior

Red-Flag Responses

- ☐ Freezing
- ☐ Hard staring
- ☐ Whale eye
- ☐ Lip lifting
- ☐ Growling
- ☐ Snapping
- ☐ Attempting to bite
- ☐ Severe avoidance or panic
- ☐ Redirected aggression

Handler Assessment:

- ☐ Pass
 - ☐ Pass with restrictions
 - ☐ Further evaluation required
 - ☐ Not suitable for group daycare
-

4. DOG-TO-DOG TEMPERAMENT ASSESSMENT

IMPORTANT: Introductions should be controlled and performed with trained staff. Do not force interaction.

A. Observation From a Distance

The dog:

- ☐ Notices other dogs and remains calm
- ☐ Shows relaxed body language
- ☐ Displays appropriate curiosity
- ☐ Can disengage and redirect to handler
- ☐ Becomes excessively fixated
- ☐ Stares intensely
- ☐ Freezes or stiffens

- ☐ Lunges
- ☐ Growls
- ☐ Barks excessively
- ☐ Attempts to charge toward another dog

Assessment:

- ☐ Appropriate
 - ☐ Monitor closely
 - ☐ High concern
-

B. Controlled Introduction

Observe the dog's response to a calm, socially appropriate dog.

The dog:

- ☐ Approaches with loose, relaxed body language
- ☐ Sniffs appropriately
- ☐ Allows reciprocal sniffing
- ☐ Responds appropriately to correction
- ☐ Takes breaks naturally
- ☐ Can disengage when called
- ☐ Becomes overly excited
- ☐ Mounts repeatedly
- ☐ Pins or body-slams the other dog
- ☐ Fixates on the other dog
- ☐ Ignores warning signals
- ☐ Escalates when corrected
- ☐ Growls, snaps, or bites

Result:

- ☐ Passed
 - ☐ Passed with monitoring
 - ☐ Requires additional evaluation
 - ☐ Failed group-play assessment
-

5. PLAY STYLE ASSESSMENT

Check all that apply.

Appropriate Play

- ☐ Loose, wiggly body

- ☐ Play bows
- ☐ Takes turns chasing
- ☐ Allows reciprocal interaction
- ☐ Pauses during play
- ☐ Self-handicaps with smaller or less confident dogs
- ☐ Responds to other dog's signals
- ☐ Can disengage when redirected

Concerning Play

- ☐ Excessive chasing
- ☐ Repeated body slamming
- ☐ Constant mounting
- ☐ Pinning
- ☐ Neck grabbing
- ☐ Excessive barking in another dog's face
- ☐ Bullying weaker or smaller dogs
- ☐ Refusing to stop when another dog disengages
- ☐ Escalating instead of calming down
- ☐ Fixating on one particular dog

Play Style:

- ☐ Gentle
- ☐ Moderate
- ☐ Rough but appropriate
- ☐ High-energy
- ☐ Selective
- ☐ Inappropriate for group play

6. RESOURCE GUARDING ASSESSMENT

Evaluate cautiously and do not deliberately provoke the dog.

Observe behavior around:

Resource	Relaxed	Mild Concern	High Concern
Toys	☐	☐	☐
Treats	☐	☐	☐
Food	☐	☐	☐
Water	☐	☐	☐
Resting areas	☐	☐	☐

Resource	Relaxed	Mild Concern	High Concern
Staff attention	☐	☐	☐
Owner	☐	☐	☐

Signs of Resource Guarding

- ☐ Freezing
- ☐ Hovering over object
- ☐ Hard staring
- ☐ Blocking another dog
- ☐ Growling
- ☐ Lip lifting
- ☐ Snapping
- ☐ Biting

Recommendation:

- ☐ No concerns
- ☐ Remove high-value items during group play
- ☐ Feed separately
- ☐ Private play only
- ☐ Not accepted until behavior concerns are addressed

7. AROUSAL & RECOVERY ASSESSMENT

A daycare dog must be able to calm down after excitement.

Evaluate:

- ☐ Can take a break from play
- ☐ Responds to handler interruption
- ☐ Can leave another dog when called
- ☐ Recovers quickly after excitement
- ☐ Can settle independently
- ☐ Becomes increasingly overstimulated
- ☐ Cannot disengage from play
- ☐ Redirects frustration toward another dog or handler
- ☐ Remains highly aroused for an extended period

Recovery Rating:

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Good

- ☐ Moderate — requires monitoring
 - ☐ Poor — high arousal concern
-

8. GROUP PLACEMENT RECOMMENDATION

The dog should be placed according to **size, temperament, age, energy level, and play style**—not size alone.

Recommended Group:

- ☐ Small / gentle dogs
- ☐ Small / high-energy dogs
- ☐ Medium / moderate-energy dogs
- ☐ Large / gentle dogs
- ☐ Large / high-energy dogs
- ☐ Senior / low-energy dogs
- ☐ Puppy group
- ☐ Private or individual play
- ☐ No group play recommended

Compatible Play Style:

Dogs or Play Styles to Avoid:

9. CRITICAL RED FLAGS

Any of the following should result in **immediate removal from group play and further evaluation**:

- ☐ Bite causing injury
- ☐ Multiple bites or repeated attack behavior
- ☐ Unprovoked aggression
- ☐ Serious aggression toward staff
- ☐ Inability to safely separate the dog
- ☐ Persistent fixation on another dog
- ☐ Repeated escalation despite intervention
- ☐ Severe resource guarding
- ☐ Repeated bullying behavior
- ☐ Extreme fear or panic that creates a safety risk
- ☐ Redirected aggression toward staff
- ☐ History withheld by the owner that creates a safety concern

Action Taken:

- ☐ Removed from group
 - ☐ Placed in private care
 - ☐ Owner contacted
 - ☐ Incident documented
 - ☐ Temporary suspension
 - ☐ Permanent removal from daycare
 - ☐ Veterinary or qualified behavior professional evaluation recommended
-

10. FINAL TEMPERAMENT DECISION

Overall Assessment

☐ **APPROVED FOR GROUP DAYCARE**

Dog demonstrates appropriate social behavior and can safely participate in a properly matched group.

☐ **APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS**

Conditions:

☐ **PRIVATE DAYCARE / INDIVIDUAL PLAY ONLY**

Reason:

☐ **RE-EVALUATION REQUIRED**

Reason:

☐ **NOT ACCEPTED FOR DAYCARE**

Reason:

STAFF NOTES & OBSERVATIONS

FINAL SIGN-OFF

Evaluator Name: _____

Evaluator Signature: _____

Date: _____

Manager/Owner Approval: _____

Date: _____

IMPORTANT DAYCARE SAFETY POLICY

Temperament is not permanent. A dog that passes an initial evaluation may later develop behavioral concerns due to age, maturity, illness, pain, stress, changes in the home, or negative experiences. All dogs should be continuously monitored, and daycare privileges should be reviewed whenever concerning behavior occurs.

No dog should be guaranteed access to group play. The safety of the dogs and staff takes priority, and management reserves the right to modify a dog's group, require individual care, suspend daycare privileges, or require further professional evaluation when safety concerns arise.