

Animal name: Mai

Animal number: 43710

Physical description: Medium (50lbs) Red mixed breed, neutered male

Description of identified behavior concerns:

Mai was impounded as a stray on June 19, 2022 when he bit a person. There are two behavior notes in place about him being leashed well and easily handled and brushed by staff twice. He will "grasp" with legs on a person, but is able to be gently pushed off.

In November of 2022 there was documentation of a bite that occurred on July 7, 2022. He was designated as a potentially dangerous dog in November based on this incident. The incident was described to ACO months afterwards as an unprovoked bite.

The victim had previously taken Mai out 5 times without issue or incident between June 19th and July 6th. Mai was taken to a play yard with another dog Tai, reported to be a bonded pair. Tai was playing with a toy and the victim reached to take the toy away from the dogs at which point Mai growled and lunged towards her face leaving a puncture in both wrists as she covered her face. He continued to growl and lunge at her as she grabbed his scruff and attempted to choke him. The dog continued to lunge and growl at her as she attempted to leave the play yard where they were. He followed her and continued the attempts to attack. She pinned him to the fencing and was able to leash him at which point staff came to her assistance. The victim attempted to walk Mai to a kennel at which point she had to pin him to a vehicle and wait for a catch pole in order to return him to the kennel. Victim did seek medical attention but there are no pictures or records of the severity of bites, though the duration of and effort exerted by Mai would classify this as a severe attack to a human.

According to the available care logs over the last 4 months, Mai has only had 4 confirmed out of kennel handlers who are taking him out more regularly.

On Site:

Kennel presentation: Upon initial approach, hard stare, tense spine, pilo erect, whale eye, dilated pupils, jumped on kennel with front paws, back paws remaining down. Dog barking at door. Dog did not eat at first presentation despite multiple treat drops. Handlers left the room and re-approached after about a minute and offered treats, dog ate. Body loosened, eyes softened, slightly less tense musculature, tail always up and stiff except when offered leash and when exiting kennel. Continuously ate while leashing and left to get food.

Exiting kennel: Exited readily to garage door area. Sniffing as he walked, did not orient to anyone passed. Outside in parking lot outside garage doors. Did treat drop, dog ate two treats, then stiffened, staring for 15 seconds, appeared to be due to a number of environmental triggers, including people, movement, loud (nail gun like) noise in distance. Moved forward for to end of garage wall and then began jumping on leash briefly, then began moving fwd again to end of grass space, before tensing again. Tense postures at pause, leaned forward, pilo erect,

ears back. hard stared at one person, rapid, shallow breaths. Dog remained tense, staring for 42 seconds. Approaching yards. Stopped at igloo/tree line just outside larger yard. At tree line, dog jumped vertically, spinning, twisting in leash, biting at leash. Handlers were able to get dog down on all fours. Dog attempted to repeat this behavior 5x. Dog then looked at leash, yawned. Dog spun on all fours, jerked at leash. Then jumped up and spun in to trees behind him. Dog moved back toward building, stopped, stared at volunteer for 11 seconds, aligned toward person, stiff musculature, direct stared, before turning away. Moved fwd several feet, lifted head, squares up, spine aligned. Stared for 4 seconds before lowering head, moving fwd. Stops again after several feet, tenses, stares, spine aligned, tense postures, stares for 12 seconds. Then focuses on 2nd person, stares for an additional 6 seconds, spine aligned, tense. Approached garage area, edge of grass, dog stops, stares, tense musculature, focused on person in distance. Orients back toward person with camera, stares, tense postures for second then orients at handler, then dog began orienting all individuals in area, 1 at a time. Dog orients at handler, lip licks, then handlers are able to move forward. Approached vehicle in front of garage doors. Then froze, stared at handler (M), tail dropped. Stared for 7 seconds then oriented toward person in rear. Then re-oriented toward handler (M), stared for 2 seconds and then jumped up toward handler (M) before being redirected by second handler. Dog then lunged toward second handler (Y), redirected by other handler. Dog jumping up, flailing, spinning, pawing at leash. Repeated 5x, before getting tangled in leash and staring at handler briefly before jumping up again. Dog was placed on a restraint pole at this point. Handlers then dropped leashes. Dog hard stared at leash handler (Y), lip licked, hard stared at camera person, hard stared at pole handler. Dog turned and lip licked. (Y) attempted to call toward garage door. Handler (M) picked up leash, began moving toward garage, Dog liplicked, tensed, began jumping up, grabbed leash with both paws, biting the pole. Dog struggling with pole, 2nd leash picked up again. Dog biting at leash. Dog struggled with pole/leash for 13 seconds before stopping. Dog briefly stared at person in garage, tense postures, lip licking. Handlers were then able to get dog into building and hallway leading to kennel. Dog stopped in hall. When door to kennels were opened, potentially due to noise of dogs in kennel space. Dog moved forward several feet before struggling on pole again, got pole twisted. At this point, dog was stalling in hall. Dog was pushing face into wall and would not move forward for 1 minute and 20 seconds. Handlers retrieved a pig board and attempted to encourage forward. Handlers then able to get dog moving and was able to get into kennel. Left leashed on and retrieved after kenneling.

Dog at FAS 4 for most of interaction, moved into FAS 5.

Summary of risks to humans and management requirements:

Potential resource guarding of toys, unable to assess. No evidence of resource guarding food. Significant bite history, unable to level due to lack of documentation, victim sought medical attention so likely at least a moderate level bite. Did engage in tracking and threat displays to people, no social signaling.

Identified leveling:

Severe- High 6

Summary of risks to conspecifics and management requirements:

Due to handler safety unable to assess interactions with other dogs.

Identified leveling:

Unknown

Summary of risks to other domestic animals and management requirements:

No information provided regarding domestics; unable to assess risk for this category.

Identified leveling:

Unknown

Current QoL status:

Exhibits high-risk behaviors to humans, Unable to rest or relax during the day, takes longer than two minutes to recover from exposure to triggers.

Identified leveling:

Significant Intervention Needed/

Recommendations and options based on risk assessment and management requirements:

The level of management for this animal is akin to that of an exotic canid that cannot be safely handled without significant precautions. If adopted out, Mai would require the following to be safely managed for the remainder of the life of the animal, as this level of aggression is unlikely to be remediated in any sense.

- Fully secure 10-12 foot fencing with airlocks to prevent escape and a shift area for cleaning and feeding
- Provisioning of a full enrichment program for Mai to meet quality of life and animal care standards for housing a large canid that meet or exceed the Association of Zoos and Aquaria (AZA) guidelines:
https://assets.speakcdn.com/assets/2332/large_canid_care_manual_2012r.pdf
- Enclosure must include provisions for severe weather, as Mai is unlikely to be comfortable and may be dangerous if he lives in the home with a person unless advised by a qualified, and certified behavior consultant (PhD, CAAB or CDBC)
- Commitment to lifelong positive-reinforcement (only) training within protected contact as there is likely no behavior modification protocol that will impact this behavior in a positive direction. Any positive reinforcement behavior modification would need to be conducted by a qualified and certified behavior consultant (trainer is an insufficient level for this type of risk) to manage fear-based aggression (distance sessions may be appropriate) – (potential cost \$8,400/year)
- Possible partnership with a veterinary behaviorist for psychopharmaceutical intervention in partnership with a local veterinarian (potential cost: \$6,000 - \$10,000/year) in order to

attempt to alleviate the unrelenting stress of living in proximity to people, which act as a clear trigger for aggression with this dog.

- Mai will never be able to safely leave property.
- Mai will need to be fully sedated for any veterinary health exams, any medical interventions, and basic husbandry (\$100 - \$300 in addition to regular cost of visit).
- Adopter must be careful to avoid any forms of punishment (including shock collar, prong collar, or choke chains) as that is likely to increase aggression, anxiety, fear, and stress per the recommendations of the Association of Shelter Veterinarians (ASV) and the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behaviorists (AVSAB) – <https://avsab.org/resources/position-statements/>