

Animal name: Joey

Animal number: 44083

Physical description:

Description of identified behavior concerns:

Before his arrival to the shelter, Joey was found by a member of the public who was bitten three times by him. All bites occurred on 6/25/2022; the first incident was inside a pet store when the dog was reacting to dogs while entering the store, the finder bent down to kiss him and she was bitten in the face, causing multiple shallow scratches and two deeper lacerations greater than 3cm (Moderate III). The second incident was quickly following the first (10 minutes later) while still at the pet store. As the finder bent down to pick up a treat the dog had not eaten, he bit her on her finger causing a few small lacerations (Moderate II). This behavior could be indicative of resource guarding and/or handling sensitivities, as well as risk of redirected aggression.

The third incident occurred approximately two hours later while he was tethered in her yard and she bent down to move the tether and was bitten on her left forearm causing a laceration (size and depth unknown, possibly Moderate II or III, but difficult to assess based on blurry photo and bandaging). This behavior is also indicative of possible resource guarding and/or handling sensitivities.

After arrival to the shelter, there is no behavior information until June 2023 when Joey was reportedly easy to handle, “loves affection and attention” and “curious of new people, and accepting of touch all over body, head and mouth”.

On 6/15/2023, a staff member noted that Joey was exhibiting “controlling behaviors not previously seen in previous interactions”. The dog was taken off of volunteer interactions pending further evaluation. No further behavioral notes are made.

Summary of risks to humans and management requirements:

Area for inquiry: Level of affiliation to humans; potential handling; level of fear of novel people

The severity of bites to the finder are significant and indicative of triggers that are likely to need extensive behavior modification to lessen Joey’s risk to humans. At the shelter, some concerning behaviors were eluded to but without a clear description of both the context and observations it’s difficult to conclude if these were triggered by similar circumstances or if previously noted issues like resource guarding and/or handling sensitivities were involved.

Identified leveling: TBD

Summary of risks to conspecifics and management requirements:

Area for inquiry: Level of affiliation to conspecifics, possible redirection risk

Identified leveling: TBD

Summary of risks to other domestic animals and management requirements:

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

Identified leveling: TBD

Recommendations and options based on risk assessment and management requirements:

TBD