

**Animal name:** Max

**Animal number:** 30100

**Physical description:** large-sized mixed breed (80lbs), described as lab/pit bull mix. Black coated. NM.

**Description of identified behavior concerns:**

Impounded on March 31, 2021 to serve a bite quarantine. The victim was injured on both arms and hands and according to the report the bite was severe. A second bite incident occurred on August 4, 2021. This time to a volunteer and the bite appears to be a level V bite ([picture in files](#)). Large skin avulsion, fat and tissue exposed on palm of right hand. After each incident a Notice of Potentially Dangerous Dog Declaration was filed. Both incidents likely occurred due to the presence of food.

SCRAPS consulted with a dog trainer and behavior consultant regarding resource guarding. August 30, 2021 evaluation on Max by "Chris Armstrong" possibly Christine Armstrong CPDT-KSA, CBCC-KA, APDT, Farpoint Farms. No website. Listed on "Diamonds on the Ruff Force Free Trainers of the Northwest" listing.

Notes indicate discomfort with the slip lead being put on and taken off. Placed teeth on staff member's hand on August 31, 2021 when attempting to take off the slip lead.

Recommendations for adoption placement indicate that handling sensitivities are present.

Video: When several other people came in to remove another dog, Max showcase piloerection with stereotypic behavior (leaping, barking, spinning repeatedly) Novel human entered pod, he came to front of kennel with antagonistic pucker, piloerection, lip lick, leaping at kennel front. When treats were tossed, ate treats. As leaving, lip lick, direct intense stare, showed hand and responds with lip lick, possible piloerection reduction.

While handler working with dog next to Max, hard stare, square, spinal aligned. When presented a hand, face pucker, lunge with air snap.

Walking out: Jumps, spin, whale eye, high tail, piloerect, multiple lip lick, catches treats at tossed. Shown hand, high tail, lip lick, direct stare with whale eye.

While in care, Max has been removed from kennel by three handlers in the past six months.

**Summary of risks to humans and management requirements:**

First reported bite incident occurred on March 31, 2021, victim was bitten multiple times. Victim had the dog on a leash and while attempting to hook the leash up to a fence to feed him, the dog lunged, biting the arm and hands of the victim, then chased the victim as they ran and bit the other arm and hand. Victim reported that leash for feeding was typical. However, it was unclear if food was present at the time of the incident either in their hand or on the ground. The Animal Bite Report form indicates that the injuries were severe, however there were no

additional descriptions or pictures provided. April 3, 2021 Notice of Potentially Dangerous Dog Declaration filed.

Second bite incident on August 4 2021. SCRAPS volunteer was returning Max to his kennel. There was a food bowl present, victim pulled the dog back so he could remove the leash away from the food bowl. Max 'reached back' and bite the victim on the right hand. Bite described as "big flap of skin was ripped back." level V bite. Confirmed after reviewing the picture of the bite. Revised Notice of Potentially Dangerous Dog Declaration filed on August 9, 2021.

Notes indicate discomfort with the slip lead being put on and taken off. Placed teeth on staff member's hand on August 31, 2021 when attempting to take off the slip lead. Recommendations in the notes day to use "two leash method." Recommendations for adoption placement indicate that handling sensitivities are present.

**Identified leveling: VI**  
**Human Interactions Scale-Level VI**

**CBIMI-Level 5 confirmed for incident on August 4, 2021. Minimally Level 4, possibly Level 5 for original incident on March 31, 2021. Did not have sufficient data to Level with more certainty. Records do indicate that the bite from March 31, 2021 was severe and injury was to both arms and hands. August 31, 2022 incident-Level I**

**Summary of risks to conspecifics and management requirements:**

Max reported in regular play groups with dogs. Described as "rough and rowdy," and has never "tipped and gone after other dogs, but other dogs don't always like him."

Was returned the same day on November 4, 2022 due to the resident dog "getting growly" with Max, and he was also getting "growly back."

**Identified leveling: Unable to identify**

**Summary of risks to other domestic animals and management requirements:**

No information.

**Identified leveling: Unable to identify**

**Summary of Quality of life:**

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. Also engages in stereotypies constantly when being observed in kennel. Has been on Fluoxetine since 9/8/2021 with little to no clinical improvement.

## 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, Max 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 Max 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](https://assets.speakcdn.com/assets/2332/large_canid_care_manual_2012r.pdf)
- Enclosure must include provisions for severe weather, as Max 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.
- Max will never be able to safely leave property.
- Max 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/>