

**Animal name:** Dougie

**Animal number:** 45317

**Physical description:** small/medium-sized mixed breed, short hair, brindle brown coat

**Description of identified behavior concerns:**

Dougie was found running at large at a local high school on July 28, 2022 on which day he was impounded. On impound, Dougie displayed signs of aggression, including whale eye and growling at the handler. This behavior indicates that Dougie is fearful of people and/or handling.

On February 14, 2023, Dougie was microchipped, given a 3-year rabies vaccination, and provided a nail trim during neuter on that date. One tooth was also extracted during surgery.

On June 5, 2023, Dougie was noted to be easy to leash and exit the kennel, and that kennel return is easy. Dougie is relaxed enough to consume food but appears to become aroused as he is noted to take treats with a hard mouth. Staff notes also indicate that they are working on "touch" which may indicate that Dougie continues to be fearful of being handled.

***There are no behavior notes in this animal's record.***

According to the available care logs, that have considerable gaps in documentation, Dougie may not have been taken out of kennel for walks until May 2023. Since then, he's had 5 confirmed handlers that have taken him out of kennel regularly.

In Kennel approach: Novel female handler approached. Whale eye, front two feet up on kennel door, barking, ears back. Jumped down to consume treats thrown to floor. After consuming all treats, moves forward to bark at handler. Lip lick x2. Forward commissure. Pupils dilated. Brows furrowed. Maintaining high alert tail with spine alignment/square up towards handler. Hand presented to bars, bite towards hands and hit bars, showing teeth.

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

History of aggression towards humans noted in record. Sustained aggressive display on kennel approach continued after offering reinforcement. Threat display significant enough that handlers felt unsafe removing dog from kennel.

Persistent threat display, no contact

Possible High VI, leveling down due to history of handler ability to remove from kennel, for limited number of handlers.

**Identified leveling:** High V

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

Unable to gather further information due to safety.

**Identified leveling:** Unable to Identify

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

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

**Identified leveling:** Unable to Identify

**Summary of Quality of Life:**

The level of arousal and stress presented at this time indicate a severe impact on this dog's quality of life.

**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, Dougie would require the following to be safely managed

- Fully secure 10-12 foot fencing with airlocks and a secure top to prevent escape and a shift area for cleaning and feeding
- Enclosure must include provisions for severe weather, as Dougie will not be comfortable and may be dangerous if he lives in the home with a person until advised by a qualified, and certified behavior consultant (PhD, CAAB or CDBC)
- Provisioning of a full enrichment program for Dougie to meet quality of life and animal care standards for housing a large canid that meet or exceed the 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)
- Adopter will only be able to interact with Dougie in protected contact, and it is unlikely that Dougie will be comfortable with being touched humans without years of behavior modification and counterconditioning
- Dougie may be able to live in a home with a person who is willing to not touch him until behavioral milestones are met
- Do not recommend interacting with novel people until advised by a qualified, and certified behavior consultant (PhD, CAAB or CDBC)
- Dougie will need to be fully sedated for any medical exams
- Commitment to several years of positive-reinforcement (only) training with a qualified and certified behavior consultant (trainer is an insufficient level for this type of risk) to address fear-based aggression (distance sessions may be appropriate) – (potential cost \$8,400/year)
- 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/>

- Possible partnership with a veterinary behaviorist for psychopharmaceutical intervention in partnership with a local veterinarian (potential cost: \$6,000 - \$10,000/year)