

**Animal name:** Nezy (FKA Ozzy)

**Animal number:** 28458

**Physical description:** Medium-sized mixed breed, tan

**Description of identified behavior concerns:**

Nezy was impounded on Jan 2, 2022 after being released from the ER for bite wounds sustained during a dog fight at home with the other resident dog. Owners surrendered both dogs as this was an on-going issue in their home and that both owners were bit despite not being able to break the fight up. Notes indicate that both dogs were injured, ACO told owners that dogs needed medical attention, especially Memphis, indicating that Nezy inflicted more damage to the other dog. There is no indication of level of damage or medical interventions for the dogs in medical notes released.

Despite this Nezy has been in play groups with other dogs and has been “successful” one on one with some dogs. In other cases he ignored or decided not to engage with the dog. In the video of Nezy interacting with a GSD mix, he is stiff and engages in forward pushing behavior and stress behaviors including lip licks and chin overs. While many would interpret this as play behaviors, when looking very closely at Nezy he is stressed and attempting to control the other dog’s movement.

Nezy has multiple notes of highly aroused behaviors, grabbing clothing and jumping at people when being removed from the kennel. He is also noted to become highly aroused quickly when playing with other dogs.

Possibly of greatest concern, Nezy also has a report from another rescue that evaluated him for their program, in which he is described as stressed and unable to connect with people. They described him as not offering eye contact and avoiding touch. Indicating possible non-affiliation to people. Staff have also indicated that he takes a long time to build trust and is barrier reactive to people and dogs in the kennel. Notes indicate that he is no longer reactive to people once he has established a relationship, indicating potential for fear reactivity to unfamiliar (novel) humans and not strictly barrier reactivity. Medical notes also indicate low tolerance for handling during intervention. “Ozzy has been aggressive so minimal treatments have been performed, he has been started on oral medications”.

5/25/23 In free contact in kennel: Handler approaches and opens kennel. Nezy significant flight distancing, piloerect, barking, pucker. Nezy removed after receiving high value treats (cheese) and slip leash wrapped. When leaving kennel, whale eye, ears pin, lip lick, ~ 1 second hard stare, look back and hard stare. (4:00 minute mark) Mussel punch to pocket.

According to the available care logs over the last 6 months, Nezy has only had 5 confirmed out of kennel handlers. It appears that these individuals are taking him out of kennel more regularly.

Outside play area: Maintaining flight distance. Ears pinned back, tail down, panting. High respiration with little moment (Flooding). Nezy flinched while being touched and faced the handler.

8/26/35 In protected contact Kennel approach: Focuses on handler. Barking and hoping. Muscular tight. Tense tail wag. Spine aligned and continues alignment as handlers moves right to left. Indicates tracking to handler. Piloerection from base of head to mid back. Piloerection at base of trail. When treat was thrown, redirected to eat treat and returned to squarely face handler with spine alignment. Face pucker, whiskers pushed forward. Hard stare at handler face.

Reapproach: lip lick. Tracking. Piloerection maintained. Front feet jumped up to face height (Leveling).

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

Low level social signaling. Low level of affiliation. While in kennel, persistent threat display with tracking. High aggression threshold while showcasing distancing behaviors.

**Identified leveling:** Level V

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

Not able to assess in person. Cohoused with conspecific resulting in multiple injuries. Records from the citing officer said that Nezy inflicted significant damage to other dog.

Active avoidance with no social signaling. Rapidly approaching conspecifics with control behaviors. Minimum mild bite reported.

**Identified leveling:** Level V

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

Unable to identify

**Identified leveling:** Unable to identify

**Summary of Quality of Life:**

The level of arousal, stress and stereotypic behaviors 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, Nezy 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 Nezy 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 Nezy 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)
- Nezy will need to be fully sedated for any veterinary health exams, any medical interventions, and more invasive husbandry/restraint. The implications of these costs increase regular and emergency visits by at least \$100-300 in addition to the cost of the visit and regular treatments and medications.
- 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.
- Nezy will never be able to safely leave property.