

Animal name: Hendricks

Animal number: 48578

Physical description: Large mixed breed, neutered male

Description of identified behavior concerns:

Hendricks was impounded on Oct 8, 2022 found running at large with a young dog. While running at large, Finder states that the dogs were chasing a man in the street. Hendricks was intended to be returned to his owner, but the owner did not follow-through on the reclaim due to financial constraints. A complainant called regarding the property that Hendricks came from noting that the dogs were not well cared for – noting 9 dogs on property, poor living conditions, not enough space, and unsure if water and food were always available.

Hendricks was neutered, microchipped, and vaccinated for rabies on Jul 1, 2023.

While in care, Hendricks was also noted to aggress toward a dog noted as coming from the same household, presumed to be bonded. Staff theorize that the aggression was over resources, indicating potential dog-dog resource guarding.

July 8, 2023 staff notes indicate Hendricks snapping and mouthing at the hands and arms of staff when inside kennel. High arousal, blown pupils, panting, pacing, muzzle punches. Staff determined that Hendricks is unsafe to place on the floor. Staff noted that outside of the kennel Hendricks is highly aroused (presumed negative valence) dilated pupils, pacing, panting, muzzle punching, quivering his jaw, and persistent in making contact with handlers. Staff noted using two leashes method to return Hendricks to the kennel.

Since Hendrick's return to care in June 2023, there are no confirmed handlers that are able to safely handle or walk him.

In person observations:

Novel male approached Hendricks' kennel. Hendricks was at the back of the kennel on approach. When the male approached the kennel, Hendricks ran toward the front of the kennel, and quickly hit the front of the kennel door with his paws, while barking and hard staring the male at face height. Eyes were wide, body tense and forward, spine aligned, and piloerection at the shoulders and base of the tail. Hendricks alternated between bracing his back legs and barking and bending front elbows, lowering head and front end to eat food. Hendrick's ate during the duration of the kennel approach, alternating between barking and lunging and eating the food provided. Male presented leash, Hendricks paused briefly, body tension decreased, and then resumed while barking and hard staring the male at face height.

Novel female approached Hendricks' kennel after the male departed from the kennel ward. When the female approached the kennel, Hendricks ran toward the front of the kennel, and quickly hit the front of the kennel door with his paws, while barking and hard staring at the female at face height. Eyes were wide, body tense and forward, spine aligned, and piloerection at the shoulders, to the mid back, and base of the tail. Hendricks alternated between bracing his

back legs and barking and bending front elbows, lowering head and front end to eat food. Hendrick's ate during the duration of the kennel approach, alternating between barking and lunging and eating the food provided. Female threw treats toward the back of the kennel, which Hendricks ate. Continual food was provided, which interrupted the consistent barking and lunging.

Hendricks was not safe to remove from the kennel due to arousal and aggression toward the two handlers that approached the kennel.

Summary of risks to humans and management requirements:

Hendricks decreases distance in protected contact with novel people with a persistent threat display. Out of the kennel, Hendricks makes consistent contact with handlers with muzzle punches indicating a significant level of threatening both novel and familiar handlers. The level of stress and anxiety produced by being in consistent proximity to people is highly stressful for this animal, indicating a very low quality of life while in care.

Identified leveling: High V

Summary of risks to conspecifics and management requirements:

Hendricks' aggressed at a dog while in care, indicating potential dog-dog resource guarding. Hendricks previously lived with other dogs, but with an unknown level of success.

Identified leveling: Unable to assess

Summary of risks to other domestic animals and management requirements:

No information is available regarding Hendricks' interaction with other domestics

Identified leveling: Unable to assess

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, Hendricks 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 Hendricks 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 Hendricks 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.
- Hendricks will never be able to safely leave property.