

Animal name: Rudy

Animal number: 31585

Physical description: large-sized mixed breed, brown coat, possibly 7-10 years old

Description of identified behavior concerns:

Rudy was impounded on May 22, 2021 after having been abandoned by his owner who had purchased Rudy from Craigslist at the owner's parents house. Parents reported that the dog is aggressive, jumps on people, and barks aggressively. The owner's sister reported that there were several bites to multiple people, including the meter person and several girlfriends. This behavior indicates that Rudy is experiencing severe fear of humans resulting in aggression. While in case, his behavior notes indicated, "he wanted to be affectionate and lean into me but when he did if I pet him he growled. If I didn't pet him he growled. The last time he put his full body into me and then got over aroused and snapped at me." This behavior indicates conflict and a low aggression threshold.

While in care, Rudy aggressed at other dogs while in a conspecific playgroup and was occasionally able to be redirected with "shaker cans", spray bottled, and a horn. This behavior indicates that Rudy is not only fearful of humans but also of conspecifics at a severe level that results in aggressive behavior.

Also while in care, some behavior modification was attempted with limited success, "...We can't expect people to never touch him outside of the shelter. I was very lightly touching him and you can see he gives several lick lips, his ears shift back, his mouth shortens and closes, he snaps a couple times, and he growls. All in the span of a second. That is so quick. We need to do BMOD with him to work on being touched and muzzling before he is available for adoption. I will put some feelers out to see if we can get him in a board and train." This behavior indicates very low arousal and aggression thresholds.

3 volunteers have been reported to be able to remove Rudy from his kennel and walk him.

There are no medical notes in this animal's record.

Video: In video of Rambo, Rudy grabbed and shook the toy. Indicate high frustration.

In walk through, hard stare to novel handler, lip pucker, lip lick, furrowed brow on approach. Watched treats thrown, will eat treats. When treats are gone, lip lick. Presented hand, dog lowers front legs, extends neck, square up, lunged, bark, deep growl, piloerection base of neck and tail. As handler walks away, gives another direct hard stare.

Walking out: Standing on K bed, shake toy and stopped to hard stare.

From Video of Blueeye (42662): While rekenneling Blueeye, this dog at corner of gate, barking, flashing teeth.

Summary of risks to humans and management requirements:

Persistent threat display, no contact. Moderate bite recorded with multiple individuals being bitten.

Identified leveling: High V

Summary of risks to conspecifics and management requirements:

Rudy has demonstrated a severe fear of conspecifics and if adopted will require significant management and investment in positive reinforcement-based training.

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:

Exhibits high-risk behaviors to humans, Unable to rest or relax during the day, not observed to recover from exposure to triggers. Also engages in stereotypies in kennel consistently during active and passive observation and noted increase in frequency, duration and intensity over length of stay.

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, Rudy 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 Rudy 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 Rudy 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.
- Rudy will never be able to safely leave property.
- Rudy will need to be fully sedated for any veterinary health exams, any medical interventions, and potentially 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/>