

Animal name: Bernie

Animal number: 50362

Physical description: Medium-sized (54 lbs), dappled, NM, mixed breed

Description of identified behavior concerns:

Bernie's initial record is October 28, 2022. Bernie's intake date is unclear. Bernie was neutered on November 8, 2022, microchipped, given a 3-year rabies vaccination, and provided a nail trim during neuter on that date.

While in care, Bernie was noted to grab and tug on leash and avoids being re-leashed. Staff noted that Bernie is not to be adopted to a home with children. Tugging on leash and avoiding leashing indicates a potential low-arousal threshold and possible difficulties in basic handling and restraint. This is not a normal level of arousal for canines and may require collaboration with a veterinary behaviorist and psychopharmaceutical intervention.

Adopted on January 4, 2023 to a home with children and other dogs; Bernie was returned two weeks later on January 18, 2023. Adopter noted Bernie to be "nippy" with young kids (no skin breaks noted) and affiliative with conspecifics.

Kennel approach readily came to front of kennel with loose musculature, wagging tail, jumped up front feet on kennel, barks, readily took treats, lip licks. Jumps out of kennel over handlers leg, jumps up, air snap to leash, spins, open mouth, jump on handler, treat scatter offered and readily ate treats turning to them, loose body posture, pulls on end of leash bouncing/pushing off hind legs. Jumps up. Easily redirected to treats on ground. Walked to adjacent pod, realized back door locked, had to exit pods to hallway. Darts around to end of leash. Mouth wide open. Pulling at end of leash, bunny hopping, eating treats off ground offered. Piloerection at base of tail. Fluidity in movement. High tail. Continues pull at end of leash and pulling and eating treats on ground, high tail continues. Exit garage, lip lick, arched approach of small stuffed dog, picked up and relocated. Loose body posture, high tail. Sniff larger stuffed dog on side laying on ground,. Orients to handler, open mouth, high tail, takes treats, paw lift. Continues with handler, sniffing for treats. Pulls towards yards with some slack in lead. Orients to second handler, open mouth, spatula tongue, lip lick, sits for treat. Catches some tossed, takes gently from hand, licks hands, open mouth, ears neutral, orients to handler, moves to sniffing ground to find treats. Novel humane approach, orients to second handler with treats, takes gently out of hand. Rolls in grass. Shake off, sits when prompted, ears go back when treats delivered, tail wagging. Tolerates petting. Second handler, takes treats, sits when prompted, second handler reaches for side of head dog flinches, lip lick, then licks hand, shake off. Sniffs ground, wags tail, rolls in grass. Full body flop. Orients to handler, sits for treat, drop treat, eats from grass. Handler kneel down, tolerating petting. Exit first play yard, pulls on leash to adjacent play yard, sniffing finding treats, curvature in spine. Handler kneels down, sniffs hands. Sniffs grass, orients to handler, takes treats from hand, tolerates petting. Steals treats from treat pouch, continues to tolerate petting. Second handler approach, sits for treats takes gently from hand. Continues to approach with loose body posture and tail wag. Continues to orient to people, solicit petting, loose posture,

tail wag, eating treats. Return to kennel followed treats on ground and leash removed with treat scatter.

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

Summary of risks to humans and management requirement

Repeatedly grabs and bites leash, easily redirected. Perpendicular stance within arms reach.

Identified leveling: Medium III

Summary of risks to conspecifics and management requirements:

Lived in home for two weeks with two other dogs, no issues reported. No identified concerns at this time.

Identified leveling: If reported interaction accurate - Low I

Summary of risks to other domestic animals and management requirements:

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

Identified leveling: not able to assess

Recommendations and options based on risk assessment and management requirements:

Management recommendations are mild

- Single moderate risk behaviors to humans
- Triggers are easily identifiable and preventable with basic management strategies
- Triggers are easily identifiable and preventable in specific home environments
- Low risk of injury to humans, conspecifics or other animals

If adopted out, Bernie would require the following to be safely managed for the remainder of the life of the animal, as a low arousal threshold and behavior issues are unlikely to be fully remediated.

- Commitment to at least a year of positive-reinforcement (only) training with a qualified certified trainer (CCPDT) to address behavior issues related to a low-arousal threshold and potential handling issues (distance sessions may be appropriate) – (potential cost \$500-1,000/year)
- Careful management of the animal around children, especially younger/smaller to avoid mouthing behaviors.