

**Animal name: Bentley**

**Animal number: 39889**

**Physical description:** Large black neutered male

**Description of identified behavior concerns:**

Bentley was “returned” to the shelter 3/27/2022 after several “nips” to the owner as well as a “bite” to an adult friend. Previous owner stated they were moving and Bentley had been starting to show signs of aggression when triggered by seeing “dogs, squirrels, new people, new environment, and food”. In another note, a staff member stated that the previous owners always had Bentley muzzled in public and that Bentley “guards mom” but that the male owner did not experience this. The bite injuries and contexts are undocumented, leveling is not possible. This history, while concerning, does not give enough information to understand any implications for Bentley’s behavior beyond possible reactivity to other animals.

Between 5/25-29/2022 Bentley was prescribed Metronidazole, presumably for diarrhea.

6/5/2023 Bentley was assigned a waiver of disclosure that stated that an adopter could not own any other animals, they needed to keep him on property at all times and if he were to go outside of a securely fenced yard on adopter’s property, he would need to be on a six foot, non retractable leash and controlled by someone 15 years or older.

6/9/2023 There is a note stating that previously it was thought that Bentley preferred men over women and that they had not observed that preference in the shelter environment. This statement makes it seem like Bentley has interacted with a number of volunteers without incident while at the shelter.

A video was taken of Bentley at an unknown date and time. In this video Bentley appears to be in an office and dragging a slip lead. The video begins with the handler calling Bentley and saying “sit” with a treat in her hand. Bentley turns to her and sits, his tail wags on the ground with side to side movement, his brow is furrowed and he then takes the treat. The handler reaches to pet his head and he squints and pulls his head back slightly before walking over to a bin with empty kongs. His body weight is even, his muscles in most of his body are fairly relaxed with a tail held slightly above his spine and wagging. His face appears somewhat tense. He responds to another ask for “sit”. The handler walks over to a dog bed and picks up a toy which he becomes noticeably stiffer and it looks like he was moving to grab the toy at the same time the handler was picking it up. The handler squeaks it and moves slightly away from Bentley who is sitting with a stiff body, frozen tail and paw lift, his ears are forward and he is staring at the toy. The handler tosses the toy behind him and he gets it. His tail loosens but stays high above his spine level as he circles in the bed with the toy before laying down with it and masticating on it. This video shows a dog who is aroused but responding readily to the handler. Arousal could be simply because he’s out of his kennel, he seems to be highly aroused by the toy as well. He moved away when pet and each time he was not being offered something by the handler. Although this clip is too short to make any claims, what can be seen is that in this context, there don’t seem to be any major triggers or warning signs from this dog to the human.

## In Person Observations:

Kennel Presentation: Highly aroused barking, tense body, jumping against the gate, high tight tail, piloerect. Handler lured down with treats which he ate readily. Door opened to offer leash loop, dog pushed to open gate and avoided leash by moving head slightly. Looped as dog exited and dog lip licked then moved quickly with stiff body, barking, growling, pushing muzzle into the other dog's gate. Used significant leash pressure to remove him from the other dog's front of kennel. Second handler placed leash before exiting the kennel pod. Significant pulling on leash to back yard, shook off just before moving into garage. Another shake off occurred just beyond the outside garage door.

Turned and approached the small stuffed dog with rapid approach with spinal alignment then chin over head, tail up, muzzle punched dog's head and dog fell, Bentley moved on, sniffing the ground.

When approaching the large stuffed dog, body lowered, piloerection at base of flagging tail and on interscapular, rushed toward then slowed 4-5' from the dog. Fixated on dog as he approached slowly, as he reached the dog he moved his head over the dog's back, muzzle punched, fully piloerect, shoulder swiped then froze. Muzzle punched face of stuffed dog before walking away.

Urinated about 20 feet from stuffed dog then shook off. Continued walking with tense body musculature and stiff tail. Entered a play yard, shook off again. Sniffed the ground with high tail until stopping to defecate, shook off twice within 1 minute. Hypersalivation. Treat was tossed into grass, dog ate it readily. Continued to walk around yard sniffing with low affiliation. Looked at female handler who then tossed a treat that was consumed, and continued with patterned treat tosses after eye contact. Went back to sniffing in yard with stiff tail then marked wood pole. Heavy panting throughout the session. Looked back at female handler then lip licked and left the yard, moving to the other, larger play yard.

In the larger play yard musculature relaxed somewhat, moved around sniffing. Made eye contact a few times with both handlers. Drank water from a bucket. Approached camera holder with soft face, relaxed body and ate treats that they tossed in his direction. Continued to heavily pant. Caught treats in the air when female handler tossed to him. A novel female stranger approached the fence, Bentley approached and ate treats tossed through fence. Bentley sniffed and walked back and forth before approaching with a break in spine, head turned onward handler, tail wagging side to side, soft face and eye contact. Shook off after handler offered an empty hand to dog then he walked away.

Walked around the yard intermittently sniffing and took treats tossed by female handler. Then approached a male stranger who knelt down with a wide wagging tail and quick approach with soft face, took treats through fence.

On visual contact to a real dog at at least 200 feet, alerted, spine aligned, high tail, approached with prancing steps for 5 paces then slowed, stiffened, continued approaching. At about 100 feet, turned head away, when looking back towards dog, head lowered, weight forward, deliberate steps. At 50 feet, lowered head, began pulling significantly harder. At 20 feet, attempted to charge closing distance with full body tension. Fixated, tracking dog along fenceline. Did not respond to other dog's distance increasing signals and continued to display behavior consistent with continued approach until handlers applied leash pressure to move him away. Turned quickly but continued looking back and displaying stress behaviors while moving away from the dog. Walked pulling on leash back towards yards and facility, intermittently tracking dog at a great distance.

Rekenned easily, took treats readily in kennel, body was still tense, panting heavily, hypersalivation as leash was removed in protected contact with kennel door closed.

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

History of repeated tooth to skin contact, undocumented severity, low affiliation observed

Spends less than 10 consecutive seconds in proximity to multiple and diverse people, engaged in displacement behaviors

**Identified leveling:** Medium III

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

History of reactivity on visual at unknown distance

History of living with another dog previously

Fixation with tense body language, attention not diverted at a distance of six feet or greater, recovery more than 30 seconds at a distance of six feet or greater, rapidly approaches conspecifics, intrusive tense, forward, or control behaviors, does not respond to distance increasing signals from conspecifics by providing distance; persistent and continuing the interaction

**Identified leveling:** High V

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

No information provided

**Identified leveling:** Unable to Identify

**Summary of Quality of Life:**

Decreases distance while engaging in threat display or active threat, longer than two minutes to recover from exposure to triggers, exhibits high risk behaviors during conspecific or human interactions

Bentley's response to conspecifics being as intense as it is indicates an incredible discomfort and stress trigger which he lives in close proximity to without relief from his triggers.

**Identified Leveling: Significant Intervention Needed**

**Recommendations and options based on risk assessment and management requirements:**

- A yard would need a sturdy, solid, non scalable 10' fence, again, with airlocks at entry points and physical locks.
- Training for Bentley would require the involvement of a Veterinary Behaviorist and a certified behavior consultant (CDBC), knowing it could possibly take years to work toward desensitization to triggers (potential cost \$8,400/year trainer is an insufficient level for this type of risk)
- Bentley should wear a well fit muzzle when off property due to his aggression towards other dogs (\$50+)
- Bentley's home should not have any other animals, particularly dogs living in the home or on the property or adjacent properties