

**Animal name:** Balfour (FKA Thor)

**Animal number:** 51932

**Physical description:** White and gray, medium sized mix breed.

**Description of identified behavior concerns:**

Balfour was impounded on Dec 23, 2022 when his most recent owner was incarcerated. Microchip traced back to another person who had moved out of state and was unable to return to Spokane to retrieve him. This owner indicated to staff that Balfour did guard food to people but was managed by feeding him in a crate. He would also chase and aggress at cats and is “dominant towards other dogs, despite playing well with them”. She also stated that he was aggressive when attempted to be woken up- would growl and lunge at people when woken up to get off the couch. Plays rough with children and she also stated that he likes to dig under fences and escape the yard.

Balfour was adopted and returned quickly as he would fixate on the cats in the home and broke through a baby gate (not secured to the wall) to chase the cats. Reported to do well with people and had no issues with teenage sons or another dog he met while in their home.

Kennel approach: Upon approach his lips, skin and commissures were flushed and bright red, this continued for the entire interaction. When handlers approached kennel he lip licked and ignored treats tossed. He lip licked and a male handler approached and dog looked up with whale eye, wide eyes, lip licked and looked at female handler who offered treats and he did not take them. Looked back up at man and lip licked so both handlers left and swapped out for 2 female handlers. Those handlers approached and he stared at her with wide eyes, he took 30 seconds to a minute to start eating. He lip licked multiple times for leashing but allowed the leash over his head easily.

He was whale eyed and showed tense muscles as he walked out of the kennel area into the hallway and out to the parking lot.

He approached and sniffed the small stuffed dog with a high tail wag, head went down and spinal alignment in stalking position. Lowered front of body and head, lip licked with spinal alignment as he walked away. Then walked around the corner and did the same for the larger stuffed dog, with a forward approach and stalking position. He only sniffed for a few seconds and moved on without prompting, sniffing the grass and marking on the grass. He kicked the dirt scent marking and gave a hard look back freeze with a hard stare. He ran to the play yard pulling hard on the leash. He sniffed around the fencing and then entered the yard still pulling.

Once in the yard he sniffed the ground, marked 3 times and ignored food tossed in the grass. Then sprinted at the end of the leash around for 8 seconds. Continued to sniff ground, ignore food and people and marked a fourth time. Handler attempted to place leash harness around his chest, he pulled his commissures whale eyed and air snapped 6 times to leash. He jumped up and backed up then spun around and began grabbing the leash with his mouth, biting and head whipping, he continued to bite and attempt to jump out of the leash while also maintaining

distance from both female handlers. Toys were offered which he took on for a second, shook off and then the leash was dropped and he stopped grabbing until it was picked up or again. When it was dropped again. Tried distracting with toy and he went to the fence and sprinted around the yard. He grabbed the leash being held by secondary handler. He stopped grabbing the leash when a person ran past at a distance of over 30 feet away, but when the leash was picked up he mouthed and tugged again. This repeated multiple times. All handlers dropped the leashes and he sprinted around the yard again but did not grab again until pressure from the leash was applied. He then started to sniff treats on the ground with both leashes and little pressure. The same male handler approached the fence and knelt down Balfour moved away and sniffed the ground. He did a shake off then ate treats placed on ground and shook off again. He continued to eat treats from male and female on the other side of the fence, once treats were stopped he moved away and marked one more time. He approached the fence and the same male handler approached the fence he paused a second then whipped around and run away from the fence just after a second leash was placed on him during the pause. He sprinted around the yard again at the end of the leashes. A third handler entered the yard and the gate was opened and he walked pulling on leash following treat trails dropped on the ground. He stopped eating the treats once about 20 feet away from entering the building again. He pulled on leash pausing twice and turning once as he entered the hallway and once again when entering the kennel room. Once in the kennel room he went right into the kennel. It took a couple of minutes to get the leashes off of him as he was avoiding touch from people. Overall it appears that arousal was heightened by the leash touching him, applying the smallest amount of pressure, and/or potential touch by a person.

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

Low arousal and frustration threshold often precipitated by touch of leash and possibly human touch. Low affiliation to people, always maintaining a flight distance from people (at the end of the leash and never coming in any closer) Food guarding (managed by crating during meals) and lunging at people when they wake him.

Significantly more fearful of men than women.

**Identified leveling:**

Medium 4

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

Area for inquiry: Behaviors labeled as dominant towards dogs by previous owner, Showed stalking behaviors to stuffed dogs, eye stalk

**Identified leveling:**

Medium 4

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

High risk behaviors towards cats. Will chase and aggress at cats and fixation in adoptive home.

**Identified leveling:** High 5

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

The level of management for this animal is moderate as triggers are identified but there are multiple. If adopted out, Balfour would require the following to be safely managed.

- A yard would need a sturdy, solid 10' fence with airlocks at entry points, physical locks and below ground securing to prevent digging underneath (\$3,000 - \$4000, depending on size of yard).
- Training for Balfour may require the involvement of a Veterinary Behaviorist and a certified behavior consultant (CDBC) to work toward arousal reduction and to improve his quality of life, 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)
- Balfour should wear a well fit muzzle when off property due to discomfort around dogs, leashes and people, particularly men (\$50+)
- Balfour's home should not have children living there or visiting. Due to resource guarding, aggression when woken he should not have direct interactions with children in a home setting. When/if visitors with children visit, Balfour would need to be securely confined with multiple barriers (i.e. in a crate in another room with a baby gate and door closed with child proof lock)
- Balfour's home should not have any other animals living in the home or on the property as he had demonstrated aggression to cats.
- He will need a crate (\$100) for feeding to keep people safe while he is eating.