

**Animal name:** Bowser

**Animal number:** 56112

**Physical description:** large-sized mixed breed

**Description of identified behavior concerns:**

Bowser was impounded on Jun 1, 2023. ACO was called to assist a patron who claimed that the dog had jumped into their car but they were unable to remove the dog as it would growl when they approached. Bowser had a harness and no tags. ACO did note that Bowser bared teeth and growled at him but also "he got excited and started wagging his tail and let me pet him." when offered his harness. Due to behavior exhibited at intake and lack of more recent behavior notes, this dog should be further assessed to better understand possible triggers, potential for harm to people and animals, and level of management required to maintain safety.

**Kennel Presentation:**

Standing on hind legs, barking, ears back, pawing at gate, upper lip retraction, hypersalivation, whale eye, fully dilated. Dog jumps with all four feet off the floor lunging at handler's face, hitting his face against the kennel door. Side eye, stiff high flagging tail, ears back, C commissure, Full piloerection half way down back. After 11 seconds, begins to eat tossed treats. When handler stood up, jumped lunging back up at handler's face. As handler leaves, dog discontinues display once door is closed.

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

Decreases distance while engaging in threat display, including eyeing, fixating or tracking person, threat display in response to unidentified triggers

**Identified leveling:** High VI

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

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

**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

**Current QoL status:**

Exhibits high-risk behaviors to humans, Unable to rest or relax during the day

**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, Bowser 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 Bowser 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](https://assets.speakcdn.com/assets/2332/large_canid_care_manual_2012r.pdf)
- Enclosure must include provisions for severe weather, as Bowser 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.
- Bowser will never be able to safely leave property.
- Bowser will need to be fully sedated for any veterinary health exams, any medical interventions, and 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/>