

This scale assesses behavior observed in the moment; it does not assess stable traits, nor should it be used to make statements about a dog's personality.

### Neutral

**Body:** Body is loose or relaxed. Tail may wag at low or neutral position; ears are relaxed. Pupils are normally dilated with a soft gaze. Dog easily breaks eye contact with a stimulus.

**Behavior:** Dog appears relaxed and does not jump, mouth, pace, or mount. Dog readily performs trained behaviors when sufficiently motivated. Dog applies gentle mouth pressure when taking treats. Dog does not require defensive handling.

### Mild Arousal

**Body:** Body may be tense. Tail may wag at or above neutral position; ears are forward –May pant. May momentarily focus its gaze on a stimulus, and pupils may be dilated. Dog easily breaks eye contact with the stimulus.

**Behavior:** Dog may occasionally bark and/or whine or pace. May jump somewhat frenetically but calms relatively quickly. May try to mouth, with mild pressure, the leash, clothes, people, or other objects in its immediate environment. May briefly pursue a stimulus with minimal intensity.

When in the presence of arousal-inducing stimuli, dog can perform trained behaviors but may need several cue repetitions or a slight environmental change. Dog may rush toward treats or take treats with slightly increased mouth pressure. Dog is easy to interrupt or distract from aroused behaviors and may require brief defensive handling.

### Moderate Arousal

**Body:** Dog's body is tense. Tail may wag fast at or above neutral position; ears are forward. Pants. Skin may appear flushed. Stares directly, with focus, at a stimulus, pupils are dilated. Dog struggles to break eye contact with the stimulus.

**Behavior:** Dog may bark repetitively and/or whine. May pace or circle consistently, may make somewhat forceful contact with kennel walls or doors. May jump frenetically, possibly in a repetitive manner. May try to mouth, with moderate pressure, the leash, clothes, people, kennel bars, or objects in its immediate environment.

May mount people or another animal, but can be controlled using defensive handling without increasing arousal. May persistently and/or intensely pursue or lunge toward a stimulus.

When in the presence of arousal-inducing stimuli, dog struggle to perform trained behaviors without significant cue repetition and/or significant environmental change. May or may not eat offered treats. If taking treats, the dog likely lunges toward the treats, applies significant mouth pressure and may ingest treats at an increased rate. Dog is difficult to interrupt or distract from aroused behaviors and requires consistent defensive handling.

### Severe Arousal

**Body:** Dog's body is tense or rigid. Tail may wag rigidly and fast, or vibrate above a neutral position, and ears are forward. Excessive panting. Skin appears flushed. Stares directly, with focus, at a stimulus, pupils are dilated. Dog is unable to break eye contact with the stimulus.

**Behavior:** Dog may bark or repetitively shriek. May pace or circle consistently, may make forceful contact with kennel walls and doors. May jump frenetically or repetitively. May mouth, with severe pressure, the leash, clothes, people, kennel bars, or other objects within its immediate environment. May mouth and hold or hold and shake. May mount people or other animals, and is either impossible to redirect or difficult to remove physically. Indiscriminately, persistently, and/or intensely pursues or lunges toward a stimulus, moving without regard for its own safety.

When in the presence of arousal-inducing stimuli, the dog cannot perform trained behaviors. Does not eat offered treats. Dog is impossible to interrupt or distract from aroused behaviors. Dog cannot be handled without adept defensive handling (two people, control pole, etc.) or may require protected contact where a physical barrier is between the person and the dog.