

# SAFER™ worksheet



|                      |                               |  |                                 |  |                      |                      |                      |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <input type="text"/> |                               | date                                   | <input type="text"/>            | <input type="text"/>                   | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| shelter name         |                               |  |                                 |  |                      |                      |                      |
| <input type="text"/> |                               | <input type="text"/>                   |                                 |  |                      |                      |                      |
| assessor             |                               | observer                               |                                 |  |                      |                      |                      |
| <input type="text"/> |                               | <input type="text"/>                   | <input type="text"/>            |  |                      |                      |                      |
| dog's name           |                               | age                                    | coat color                      |  |                      |                      |                      |
| sex                  | <input type="checkbox"/> male | <input type="checkbox"/> neutered male | <input type="checkbox"/> female | <input type="checkbox"/> spayed female | <input type="text"/> |                      |                      |
|                      |                               |  |                                 | breed                                  |                      |                      |                      |
| date entered shelter | <input type="text"/>          | <input type="text"/>                   | <input type="text"/>            | <input type="text"/>                   | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|                      |                               |  |                                 | dog ID number                          |                      | <input type="text"/> |                      |

## item 1 – look:

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | Dog leans forward or jumps up to lick the Assessor's face with tail wagging, ears back and eyes averted. <b>[Enter "1"]</b>   |
|  | Dog's eyes are averted, with tail wagging and ears back. He allows head to be held loosely in Assessor's cupped hands. <b>[Enter "1"]</b>   |
|  | Dog holds gaze with soft eyes, soft body. He allows head to be held loosely in Assessor's cupped hands. Dog holds gaze for three full seconds. <b>[Enter "1"]</b>                 |
|  | Dog's eyes are averted. His ears are back, his tail is down, and he has a relaxed body posture. Dog allows head to be held loosely in Assessor's cupped hands. <b>[Enter "1"]</b> |
|  | Dog's eyes are averted. His body posture is stiff and fearful, his tail is low and not moving. He allows head to be held loosely in Assessor's cupped hands. <b>[Enter "2"]</b>   |
|  | Dog pulls out of Assessor's hands each time without settling during three repetitions. <b>[Enter "2"]</b>   |
|  | Dog jumps on the Assessor, consistently rubs his shoulder on the Assessor, and will not allow Assessor to conduct the assessment. <b>[Enter "3"]</b>                              |
|  | Dog holds eye contact while remaining motionless with ears forward. His body is stiff and becomes stiffer as assessment progresses. <b>[Enter "4"]</b>                            |
|  | Dog freezes and/or growls or tries to bite. <b>[Enter "5"]</b>  |

**If aggression is noted**, use the checklist below to evaluate the dog's response. You can use this information to help best guide the behavior team regarding potential behavior modification and management (see guide for protocols).

- |                                     |                                       |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Body stiff | <input type="checkbox"/> Eyes hard    | <input type="checkbox"/> Vocalizes  | <input type="checkbox"/> Exposes teeth    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Freeze     | <input type="checkbox"/> Ears back    | <input type="checkbox"/> Dog growls | <input type="checkbox"/> Snaps no contact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tail up    | <input type="checkbox"/> Ears forward |                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Attempts to bite |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tail down  |                                       |                                     |   |

**Behaviors observed before, during or after the item:**

## item 2 – sensitivity:

|   |   |
|---|---|
|   | Dog leans into the Assessor, eyes soft or squinty, soft and loose body, open mouth. <b>[Enter “1”]</b>  |
|   | Dog stands still and accepts the touch, his eyes are averted, and his tail is in neutral position with relaxed body posture. Dog’s mouth is likely closed for at least a portion of the assessment item. <b>[Enter “1”]</b> |
|   | Dog displays high energy and movement, but it is directed toward getting closer to the Assessor. His body is soft, likely panting, may jump up between attempts to lick Assessor. <b>[Enter “2”]</b>                        |
|   | Dog is active and focused on the Assessor and all other stimuli available. His body is soft, likely panting, likely to display high movement between attempts. <b>[Enter “2”]</b>   |
|   | Dog stands still and accepts the touch, his eyes are averted, his tail is between his legs, body stiff, mouth closed, lip long, ears likely back, may lip lick. <b>[Enter “2”]</b>  |
|   | Dog repeatedly turns toward the Assessor’s hand, with loose body and open mouth, mouths the hand, but does not apply pressure. Or, dog licks hands while lips are long. <b>[Enter “2”]</b>                                  |
|   | Dog is not fearful and is struggling to get away. The dog is not focused and is in constant movement, unconnected to the Assessor. <b>[Enter “3”]</b>   |
|   | Dog stands tall and square. His tail perpendicular to spine, mouth closed for the majority of assessment item. <b>[Enter “3”]</b>   |
|   | Dog repeatedly turns toward the Assessor’s hand with a very fast head movement. If able, he muzzle punches the hand. His body is stiff and he has a closed mouth with a short lip. <b>[Enter “4”]</b>                       |
|   | Dog freezes, growls or tries to bite. <b>[Enter “5”]</b>  |
| <p><b>If aggression is noted</b>, use the checklist below to evaluate the dog’s response. You can use this information to help best guide the behavior team regarding potential behavior modification and management (see guide for protocols).</p> |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Body stiff<br><input type="checkbox"/> Freeze<br><input type="checkbox"/> Tail up<br><input type="checkbox"/> Tail down  | <input type="checkbox"/> Eyes hard<br><input type="checkbox"/> Ears back<br><input type="checkbox"/> Ears forward   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vocalizes<br><input type="checkbox"/> Dog growls   | <input type="checkbox"/> Exposes teeth<br><input type="checkbox"/> Snaps no contact<br><input type="checkbox"/> Attempts to bite  |

**Behaviors observed before, during or after the item:**

## item 3 – tag:

|   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
|   | Dog assumes play position and joins the game. Or dog indicates play with huffing, soft ‘popping’ of the body, etc. Dog might jump on Assessor once play begins. <b>[Enter “1”]</b>  |   |  |
|   | Dog stands with his tail low and wagging, and comes toward the Assessor in a friendly manner when the Assessor ceases moving. <b>[Enter “1”]</b>  |   |  |
|   | Follows at end of leash, body soft, or low and a bit fearful. <b>[Enter “1”]</b>  |   |  |
|   | Dog is fearful but unresponsive when touched. Approaches the Assessor when the game ends. Dog is likely crouching, may have long lip or lip lick. <b>[Enter “2”]</b>  |   |  |
|   | Dog is not fearful but is unresponsive to the Assessor, and approaches the Assessor at the end of the game (may need coaxing to approach). He is focused on stimuli other than the Assessor. <b>[Enter “2”]</b>             |   |  |
|   | Dog repeatedly turns quickly away when touched, or repeatedly spins toward the touch, and repeatedly tries to exit. Dog may be crouching, tail is tucked, mouth closed, body stiff. <b>[Enter “3”]</b>                      |   |  |
|   | Dog responds with his tail high, ears forward, mouth likely closed for at least half of the assessment item, body stiff and body checks the Assessor. Dog is often focused on other stimuli in the room. <b>[Enter “3”]</b> |   |  |
|   | Dog panics with vocalization combined with tail tuck, yelping and repeatedly trying to exit. (If dog settles after 1st or 2nd tag, choose 1st “3” scoring option). <b>[Enter “4”]</b>                                       |   |  |
|   | Dog stands his ground while not cornered and barks at the Assessor with ears forward, body stiff, mouth closed and lips pursed when not barking. <b>[Enter “4”]</b>   |   |  |
|   | Dog growls or tries to bite. <b>[Enter “5”]</b>   |   |  |
| <p><b>If aggression is noted</b>, use the checklist below to evaluate the dog’s response. You can use this information to help best guide the behavior team regarding potential behavior modification and management (see guide for protocols).</p> |   |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Body stiff<br><input type="checkbox"/> Freeze<br><input type="checkbox"/> Tail up<br><input type="checkbox"/> Tail down  | <input type="checkbox"/> Eyes hard<br><input type="checkbox"/> Ears back<br><input type="checkbox"/> Ears forward   | <input type="checkbox"/> Vocalizes<br><input type="checkbox"/> Dog growls | <input type="checkbox"/> Exposes teeth<br><input type="checkbox"/> Snaps no contact<br><input type="checkbox"/> Attempts to bite |

**Behaviors observed before, during or after the item:**

**Note: If the dog's behavior upon the first attempt matches any of the response choices higher than a "2", you should use the rear flank.**

## item 4 – squeeze:

### if paw is used:

| First Attempt | Second Attempt |  |
|---------------|----------------|--|
|               |                | Dog gently pulls back his paw. Dog may lick hand. <b>[Enter "1"]</b>   |
|               |                | Dog does not respond at all for three seconds. His eyes are averted and his ears are relaxed or back. <b>[Enter "1"]</b>   |
|               |                | Dog gently pulls back and whimpers. <b>[Enter "2"]</b>   |
|               |                | Dog gently places his open mouth over the Assessor's hand without applying pressure. <b>[Enter "2"]</b>  |
|               |                | Dog closes mouth, becomes stiff. <b>[Enter "3"]</b> Note: If this behavior occurs on the first attempt, use the flank instead.   |
|               |                | Dog is soft in body and eye, and moves his legs/body so that the Assessor is unable to hold the paw <b>[Enter "3"]</b> Note: If this behavior occurs on the first attempt, use the flank instead.  |
|               |                | Dog yelps repeatedly or screams. <b>[Enter "3"]</b> Note: If this behavior occurs on the first attempt, use the flank instead.   |
|               |                | Dog head flips while pulling back paw. <b>[Enter "3"]</b> Note: If this behavior occurs on the first attempt, use the flank instead.   |
|               |                | Dog reaches toward the Assessor's hand on the second attempt while moving his paw away when the Assessor attempts to lift it. The dog will not allow the Assessor to assess second time. <b>[Enter "4"]</b> Note: If this behavior occurs on first attempt, use the flank instead. |
|               |                | Dog growls. <b>[Enter "4"]</b> Note: If this behavior occurs on the first attempt, use the flank instead.  |
|               |                | Dog freezes and/or tries to bite. <b>[Enter "5"]</b> Note: If this behavior occurs on the first attempt, use the flank instead.  |

### if rear flank is used:

| First Attempt | Second Attempt |  |
|---------------|----------------|--|
|               |                | Dog sits, mouth open or lip long. <b>[Enter "1"]</b>   |
|               |                | Dog does not respond at all. <b>[Enter "1"]</b>  |
|               |                | Dog gently places his open mouth over the Assessor's hand without applying pressure. <b>[Enter "2"]</b>  |
|               |                | Dog closes mouth, begins to purse lips and becomes stiff. <b>[Enter "3"]</b>   |
|               |                | Dog head flips while moving hip away. <b>[Enter "3"]</b>   |
|               |                | Dog growls. <b>[Enter "4"]</b> Note: If this behavior occurs on the first attempt stop the assessment. Proceed to the Food and Toy Behavior items if additional information is desired.        |
|               |                | Dog tries to bite. <b>[Enter "5"]</b> Note: If this behavior occurs on the first attempt stop the assessment. Proceed to the Food and Toy Behavior items if additional information is desired. |

**If aggression is noted**, use the checklist below to evaluate the dog's response. You can use this information to help best guide the behavior team regarding potential behavior modification and management (see guide for protocols).

- |                                     |                                    |                                       |   |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Body stiff | <input type="checkbox"/> Tail down | <input type="checkbox"/> Ears forward | <input type="checkbox"/> Exposes teeth    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Freeze     | <input type="checkbox"/> Eyes hard | <input type="checkbox"/> Vocalizes    | <input type="checkbox"/> Snaps no contact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tail up    | <input type="checkbox"/> Ears back | <input type="checkbox"/> Dog growls   | <input type="checkbox"/> Attempts to bite |

**Behaviors observed before, during or after the item:**

**note**

If the dog does not eat, try another type of food. If necessary, reassess at a later point.

## item 5 – food behavior:

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | Dog lifts head and ceases eating when you reach to pull the bowl away or push him out. <b>[Enter “1”]</b>   |
|  | Dog calmly allows the food to be moved, follows the dish, but does not interfere with the dish’s movement. Dog’s body is soft and loose, eyes soft, tail neutral. He lifts his head when hand is pushed against his cheek. <b>[Enter “1”]</b> |
|  | Dog follows the dish with his tail down, body likely a bit stiff. Dog lifts head after a bit of pressure from hand to cheek. <b>[Enter “2”]</b>   |
|  | Dog follows the dish, his tail between his legs, ears are forward. His body is stiff. Dog does not lift his head from the bowl when hand is applied to his cheek. <b>[Enter “3”]</b>  |
|  | Dog gulps food, begins to eat faster and with bigger bites, body stiff. He does not lift head when hand is applied to cheek. <b>[Enter “3”]</b>   |
|  | Dog freezes and/or growls. <b>[Enter “4”]</b>   |
|  | Dog tries to bite. (Use chart on the worksheet to identify level of bite attempt/bite.) <b>[Enter “5”]</b>  |

**If aggression is noted**, use the checklist below to evaluate the dog’s response. You can use this information to help best guide the behavior team regarding potential behavior modification and management (see guide for protocols)

- |                                     |  |   |   |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Body block | <input type="checkbox"/> Ears back     | <input type="checkbox"/> Paws in bowl     | <input type="checkbox"/> Snaps at hand (no contact) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Body stiff | <input type="checkbox"/> Ears forward  | <input type="checkbox"/> Urinates in bowl | <input type="checkbox"/> Repeated contact bite      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Freeze     | <input type="checkbox"/> Eyes hard     | <input type="checkbox"/> Bites bowl       | <input type="checkbox"/> Leaves bowl to bite hand   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tail up    | <input type="checkbox"/> Exposes teeth |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Bites up Assess-a-Hand®    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tail down  | <input type="checkbox"/> Vocalizes     |   |   |

**Behaviors observed before, during or after the item:**

**note**

Recommend using 2 non-food toys (rope, squeaky, etc.) and then 1 unbasted rawhide item. Enter number for each item in that part of the column.

| <b>item 6 – toy behavior:</b>  |  |   |   |                                    |                                      |   |                                     |                                       |  |  |                                 |                                    |  |  |                                  |  |  |   |                                    |                                    |  |  |
|--|--|---|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------------|--|--|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Toys only  | Rawhide (if used)                      |   |   |                                    |                                      |   |                                     |                                       |  |  |                                 |                                    |  |  |                                  |  |  |   |                                    |                                    |  |  |
|  |  | No interest. <b>[Enter “1”]</b>   |   |                                    |                                      |   |                                     |                                       |  |  |                                 |                                    |  |  |                                  |  |  |   |                                    |                                    |  |  |
|  |  | Dog settles down close to chew, will relinquish toy or rawhide to you. <b>[Enter “1”]</b>   |   |                                    |                                      |   |                                     |                                       |  |  |                                 |                                    |  |  |                                  |  |  |   |                                    |                                    |  |  |
|  |  | Dog settles close, keeps a firm grip and is loose and wiggly. He does not place his body between you and the toy/rawhide. <b>[Enter “1”]</b>                    |   |                                    |                                      |   |                                     |                                       |  |  |                                 |                                    |  |  |                                  |  |  |   |                                    |                                    |  |  |
|  |  | Dog takes toy away, keeps a firm hold. His body is between you and the toy or rawhide, and he is loose and wiggly. No growling or stiffness. <b>[Enter “2”]</b> |   |                                    |                                      |   |                                     |                                       |  |  |                                 |                                    |  |  |                                  |  |  |   |                                    |                                    |  |  |
|  |  | Dog takes toy/rawhide away, keeps a firm hold. His body is stiff. <b>[Enter “3”]</b>  |   |                                    |                                      |   |                                     |                                       |  |  |                                 |                                    |  |  |                                  |  |  |   |                                    |                                    |  |  |
|  |  | Dog freezes and/or growls. <b>[Enter “4”]</b>   |   |                                    |                                      |   |                                     |                                       |  |  |                                 |                                    |  |  |                                  |  |  |   |                                    |                                    |  |  |
|  |  | Dog attempts bite (use chart on worksheet) <b>[Enter “5”]</b>   |   |                                    |                                      |   |                                     |                                       |  |  |                                 |                                    |  |  |                                  |  |  |   |                                    |                                    |  |  |
| <p><b>If aggression is noted</b>, use the checklist below to evaluate the dog’s response. You can use this information to help best guide the behavior team regarding potential behavior modification and management (see guide for protocols)</p>   |  |   |   |                                    |                                      |   |                                     |                                       |  |  |                                 |                                    |  |  |                                  |  |  |   |                                    |                                    |  |  |
| <table border="0"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Body block</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Ears back</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Paws on toy</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Snaps at hand (no contact)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Body stiff</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Ears forward</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Urinates on toy</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Repeated contact bite</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Freeze</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Eyes hard</td> <td></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Leaves toy to bite hand</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Tail up</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Exposes teeth</td> <td></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Bites up Assess-a-Hand</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Tail down</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Vocalizes</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Body block                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ears back | <input type="checkbox"/> Paws on toy | <input type="checkbox"/> Snaps at hand (no contact) | <input type="checkbox"/> Body stiff | <input type="checkbox"/> Ears forward | <input type="checkbox"/> Urinates on toy | <input type="checkbox"/> Repeated contact bite | <input type="checkbox"/> Freeze | <input type="checkbox"/> Eyes hard |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Leaves toy to bite hand | <input type="checkbox"/> Tail up | <input type="checkbox"/> Exposes teeth |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Bites up Assess-a-Hand | <input type="checkbox"/> Tail down | <input type="checkbox"/> Vocalizes |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Body block  | <input type="checkbox"/> Ears back     | <input type="checkbox"/> Paws on toy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Snaps at hand (no contact) |                                    |                                      |   |                                     |                                       |  |  |                                 |                                    |  |  |                                  |  |  |   |                                    |                                    |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Body stiff  | <input type="checkbox"/> Ears forward  | <input type="checkbox"/> Urinates on toy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Repeated contact bite      |                                    |                                      |   |                                     |                                       |  |  |                                 |                                    |  |  |                                  |  |  |   |                                    |                                    |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Freeze  | <input type="checkbox"/> Eyes hard     |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Leaves toy to bite hand    |                                    |                                      |   |                                     |                                       |  |  |                                 |                                    |  |  |                                  |  |  |   |                                    |                                    |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tail up   | <input type="checkbox"/> Exposes teeth |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Bites up Assess-a-Hand     |                                    |                                      |   |                                     |                                       |  |  |                                 |                                    |  |  |                                  |  |  |   |                                    |                                    |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tail down   | <input type="checkbox"/> Vocalizes     |   |   |                                    |                                      |   |                                     |                                       |  |  |                                 |                                    |  |  |                                  |  |  |   |                                    |                                    |  |  |

**Behaviors observed before, during or after the item:**



Be sure to take your observational “snapshot” in the first few seconds of the approach. Dogs do not have to touch.

enter name and sex of dog-to-dog helper dog.

name \_\_\_\_\_ sex  male  female

## item 7 – dog-to-dog behavior:

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | Dog approaches the helper dog in play position. His mouth is open. [Enter “1”]                                     |
|  | Dog approaches the helper dog submissively (head low, tail low, ears back, lip long). [Enter “1”]                  |
|  | Dog approaches helper dog with tail at spine level, body not stiff, ears relaxed, lip long or neutral. [Enter “2”] |
|  | Dog does not approach the helper dog. Turns body to side in relation to other dog, or exits. [Enter “2”]           |
|  | Dog approaches the helper dog, body soft, tail well above spine level, ears forward. [Enter “2”]                   |
|  | Dog approaches the helper dog by rushing in with his tail high, stiff body, head tall, and ears erect. [Enter “3”] |
|  | Dog charges the helper dog while growling or attempting to bite. [Enter “4”]                                       |

If aggression is noted, use the checklist below to evaluate the dog’s response. You can use this information to help best guide the behavior team regarding potential behavior modification and management (see guide for protocols).

- |                                     |                                       |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Freeze     | <input type="checkbox"/> Eyes soft    | <input type="checkbox"/> Vocalizes  | <input type="checkbox"/> Exposes teeth    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Body soft  | <input type="checkbox"/> Eyes hard    | <input type="checkbox"/> Dog growls | <input type="checkbox"/> Snaps no contact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Body stiff | <input type="checkbox"/> Ears back    |                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Attempts to bite |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tail up    | <input type="checkbox"/> Ears forward |                                     |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tail down  |                                       |                                     |   |

*Behaviors observed before, during or after the item:*

|   | Look | Sensitivity | Tag | Squeeze 1 | Squeeze 2 | Food | Toy | Rawhide | Dog |
|---|------|-------------|-----|-----------|-----------|------|-----|---------|-----|
| 1 |      |             |     |           |           |      |     |         |     |
| 2 |      |             |     |           |           |      |     |         |     |
| 3 |      | P           | P   | P         | P         | P    | P   | P       |     |
| 4 | R    | R           | R   | R         | R         | R    | R   | R       | P   |
| 5 | S    | S           | S   | S         | R         | R    | R   | R       |     |

For each item, mark an ‘x’ in the box that intersects with the score for that item.

(Ex.: If the Sensitivity item has a score of “2”, put an “x” in the box where row “2” and “Sensitivity” intersect.)

**Legend:**

**P** = Potential behavior modification and/or management

**R** = Behavior modification and/or management strongly recommended

**S** = STOP item for safety reasons. Behavior modification and/or management strongly recommended.  
Move to food if SOP suggests

**General observations and recommendations:**