

Lizzy's Lodge Rescue

Criteria for Evaluating a Dog

Negative signs to look for (do not pull)

- o Dominant/Nervous/Predatory aggression towards people
- o Re-direct aggression out of frustration
- o Dominant/Nervous/Predatory aggression towards other dog
- o Too independent in nature
- o Over-dependent – bonding to a particular person
- o Overprotective of person

Positive signs to look for:

- o Able to bond with a new handler
- o Submissive to be led and directed
- o Responds to training/commands
- o Sensitive to both touch and voice
- o Easily motivated

Tests:

- 1) Initial approach: does dog come closer? How active is the response of the dog as they approach?
- 2) Touch approach: Best response is when dog leans into the touch. Disinterest signifies an independent nature. Move away from the dog and see how dog reacts to wanting to keep in contact with handler. How much dog is willing to approach shows the willingness of the dog to seek a pleasurable experience, therefore easier trained.
- 3) Speak Test: See how long it takes to keep dogs attention. The more the dog stays focused on handler while speaking then shows the dogs trainability.
- 4) Eye Contact Test: Observe dogs behavior while being watched. Dog should give casual eye contact in return.
- 5) Stare Test: Stare at the dog to see how long it takes for the dog to react. The ideal is dog that looks away, that signifies submission.
- 6) Quick Movement: See how long it takes dog to recover from the startle. The more the dog relaxes the better.
- 7) Training Test: See how quick it takes dog to learn. Use treats. Then observe how long it takes to get the dog to do w/o the treat.
- 8) Leave Test: walk away from the dog and see what happens when out of sight and how long it takes dog to settle.
- 9) Third Party: While handling the dog have someone come up to give a hug. Notice the level of the dogs protection
- 10) Dog test: Bring another dog around. Give that dog attention while in front of test dog. This will make dog excited which is normal but it should be to the handler not the other dog. Any signs of aggression towards the other dog or re-direct aggression towards anything near the dog shows a history of aggression.