

Behavioral Assessment:

Dog Name	Vesper
ID NO:	21-028
Arrival Date:	3/2/21 RTP 6/11/23
Date Tested:	6/9/21 Revised 11/11/21 Revised 6/29/23
Tested By:	HH
Test Level: <i>(See level descriptions at the end of the test assessment.)</i>	3

Behavior Assessment is a standard practice of rescues and shelters to evaluate the personality and behavior of the dogs in the program. The purpose of the test is to gain an understanding of the dog's character. The test is performed a minimum of 3 to 5 days after the dog's arrival as some dogs may be stressed when they first arrive and testing during this time may not be an accurate assessment. Although all efforts are made with the end goal of making the best possible placement for both the dog and owner, it is impossible to guarantee the personality and behavior of any dog. The behavior assessment is not an express or implied warranty or guarantee of any kind of the dog's personality and behavior. We strongly advise that you monitor your dog closely and use caution/discretion as to with whom and under what circumstances interactions are allowed with your dog until you have fully acclimated the dog to its new surroundings and have formed your own observation and assessments of the dog's personality and behavior after acclimation to its new placement.

GENERAL BEHAVIOR:

These questions are designed to determine how the dog interacts with strangers and to get a feel for the dog's general demeanor.

MEETING PEOPLE

<input type="checkbox"/>	Friendly, eager to associate
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cautious/apprehensive, then relaxed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Barks, growls or shows signs of discomfort – depends who you are. More with men.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Avoids/ignores
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other, please describe:

ON LEASH

Leash Manners

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Walks well !! Very good at wearing a harness.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pulls constantly
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lags behind, needs encouragement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Darts from side to side
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pulls to chase wildlife, or if too close to another dog
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fearful of leash

Reaction to dogs while on leash

<input type="checkbox"/>	Fine; no problems noted
<input type="checkbox"/>	Friendly; wants to play
<input type="checkbox"/>	Indifferent/ignores
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pulls/lunges
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Growls or barks – at some, stiff with others, some he just ignores. Usually not an issue unless they bark at him first, then he reacts.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Okay at distance, not face to face

CONFIDENCE LEVEL

Standing overhead with three strokes down the back

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Happy and affectionate; dog likes – when he knows you!
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stiff, statue – with new people
<input type="checkbox"/>	Walks away is indifferent

Teeth examination

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No reaction; dog is fine – if he knows you
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wiggles or shakes to get away; little reaction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Growls, lip curls; does not like – at the vet

Hugs

<input type="checkbox"/>	Happy and affectionate; dog likes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pulls away
<input type="checkbox"/>	Goes belly up or flattens out
<input type="checkbox"/>	Urinates
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stiff, statue – but he will hug you when he knows you well
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do not hug him

Push on shoulders

<input type="checkbox"/>	Playful, interactive
<input type="checkbox"/>	Playful, mouthy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Timid, shies away
<input type="checkbox"/>	Timid, crawls back to tester
<input type="checkbox"/>	Indifferent, no reaction
<input type="checkbox"/>	Whips head around
<input type="checkbox"/>	Growls, lip curls or snarls
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other: did not do this

Sensitivity to Handling

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Grabbing collar
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Touching feet
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Touching tail
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Looking in ears
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other: Very sensitive to all touching, must go slow and gain his trust
<input type="checkbox"/>	None observed

Arousal:

Some dogs may tend to guard resources, such as toys, bones or other objects. In this test (while off leash), we initiate play, and, when the dog is at its highest level of play intensity, we take possession of the toy and stand still.

Dog's Reaction

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nice level of play
<input type="checkbox"/>	Played with encouragement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Became highly aroused (jumped up, body slammed, mouthed) but calmed down quickly
<input type="checkbox"/>	Became highly aroused (jumped up, body slammed, mouthed) and stayed that way after the interaction stopped
<input type="checkbox"/>	Became fearful

Preferred toy

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Balls
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bones
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Squeak Toy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rope Toys
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stuffed Toys
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chews Up Stuffed Toys

Comments: Likes toys. Will play on his own, tossing around to himself.

FOOD GUARDING:

Some dogs become protective of their food bowls or other food objects, and may growl or try to bite when approached. The first test indicates if the dog will react if an artificial hand is presented to the dog without food nearby. The second test determines the dogs' tolerance for being petted while eating, and having someone try to put hands in their bowl.

Assess hand reaction without food present

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fine, no reaction
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wanted to play with hand
<input type="checkbox"/>	Timid, shy

Assess hand reaction with food present

<input type="checkbox"/>	Fine, no reaction
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eats extremely fast
<input type="checkbox"/>	Body blocks
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Freezes, lip curls or growls

<input type="checkbox"/>	Bites hand
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

ENVIRONMENTAL:

Tests skills related to the dog's environment and social skills.

Ability to use steps

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fine; no problems noted
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fearful; will not attempt
<input type="checkbox"/>	Slowly; may need assistance and/or encouragement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Unable; mobility limitations

MANNERS AND OBEDIENCE SKILLS:

Tests dog's basic skill and provides insight on what motivates dog for further development.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Appears to have no training (mark with "x" if appropriate)
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Commands test

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sit
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Down
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Come
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stay
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Give Paw/Shake
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Drop
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other: touch, look, leave it

Dog is motivated with

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Food
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Praise
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Toys

Ease of training

	Easy
x	Moderate
	Difficult

BEHAVIOR CHALLENGES:

Behavior Traits Observed	None Observed	Moderate Concern	Significant Concern
Jumping on people	x		
Mouthing (grabbing clothes, arms, legs with mouth)	x		
Jumping or climbing fences	x		
Digging in yard	x		
Urinating when excited	x		
Mounting people ("humping")	x		
Mounting other dogs	n/a		
Counter Surfing	x		
Anxiety when left alone	x		
Other: takes a long time to warm up to people			x
Other: barks, growls at strangers			x

Evaluation Snapshot:

Comparison rating of the dog regarding various traits and behaviors:



Confident		x				Timid
Independent			x			Dependent
Tolerant					x	Sensitive
Attentive		x				Distracted
Gentle		x				Rough
Calm			x			High Energy
Appeasing				x		Assertive
Playful			x			Serious
Outgoing		x				Reserved
People Centered			x			Environment Centered
Resilient			x			Slow to Recover
Shares Well				x		Guards Resource

Best Type of Environment:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Calm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Busy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chaotic
<input type="checkbox"/>	Any

Best Type of Owner:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Experienced
<input type="checkbox"/>	Capable
<input type="checkbox"/>	Novice
<input type="checkbox"/>	Any

LEVEL SUMMARY DESCRIPTIONS:**Level 1:**

Super easy, low energy, no issues; would do well in virtually any home regardless of owner experience.

Level 2:

Low to moderate energy though some activity may induce high energy. Needs average leadership; generally lacks obedience or house manners. Could be shy, quiet or outgoing but not difficult. Dog may have minor issues that are easy to address and is a good dog.

Level 3:

Moderate, high or very high energy/drive. Needs an owner experienced with leadership and proper management. Typically good dog but may have challenging behavior. Could be dog reactive or aggressive and possibly the only animal in a home.

Level 4:

Intense focus and/or extreme energy/drive. Could be a dog for fly ball, agility or other sporting abilities. Can be strong, pushy or dominant. Needs experienced owner that has commitment to provide the dog with the guidance and training he/she needs to be successful.

Level 5:

Extreme lack of social skills regarding humans; needs a canine mentor. Requires owner commitment and patience to allow dog to grow at its own pace and increase confidence.

POTTY HABITS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Routine, no problems noted
<input type="checkbox"/>	Occasional accident in kennel, not a serious issue
<input type="checkbox"/>	Frequent accidents, will likely need remedial house training post adoption

NOTES:

6/29/23

Vesper is a handsome black lab that originally came to DVGRR in 2021. He was adopted and in a home for a year and sadly was returned due to no problem of his own – his owner had their own medical issues.

Vesper has some specific challenges. He would prefer living with a woman but we do have some men volunteers who he likes.

It takes him time to get-to-know people. Once he trusts you, he likes petting and going for walks and he is a nice calm companion.

He loves to be sung to. His favorite song is *You Are My Sunshine* ☺

Vesper cannot live with or interact with other pets. Neither should he live with or interact with children.

He is a really special boy who knows lots of obedience skills.

He is a staff favorite.

His future adopter should be open to visiting him a few times before taking him home.

11/11/21

Vesper is fearful of some new people at first.

May give a low growl.

Some people he loves immediately.

Seems more relaxed meeting people out in the yard or on-leash rather than walking into his space inside.

May guard his toys and food with new people until he gains trust.

He walks great on leash.

He loves playing with toys.

He knows a lot of obedience skills.

Happy, playful boy once he knows you.

Needs experienced adopter.