Delaware Valley Golden Retriever Rescue
60 Vera Cruz Rd., Reinholds, PA 17569 (717) 484-4799 *www.dvgrr.org*

Behavioral Assessment:

Dog Name	**Benji #5**
ID NO:	**17-169**
Arrival Date:	**6/29**
Date Tested:	**7/17**
Tested By:	**DS, LJ**
Test Level: *(See level descriptions at the end of the test assessment.)*	**1, 5**

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

	Friendly, eager to associate
x	Cautious/apprehensive, then relaxed
	Barks, growls or shows signs of discomfort
	Avoids/ignores
	Other, please describe:
n	Is dog anxious or stressed? If so, list signs:

ON LEASH

Leash Manners

	Walks well
	Pulls constantly
	Lags behind, needs encouragement
x	Darts from side to side, gets underfoot
	Pulls to access other dogs or people
	Fearful of leash

Reaction to dogs while on leash

x	Fine; no problems noted
	Friendly; wants to play
	Indifferent/ignores
	Pulls/lunges
	Growls or barks
	Okay at distance, not face to face

CONFIDENCE LEVEL

Standing overhead with three strokes down the back

x	Happy and affectionate; dog likes
	Stiff, statue
	Walks away is indifferent

Teeth examination

x	No reaction; dog is fine
	Wiggles or shakes to get away; little reaction
	Growls, lip curls; does not like

Hugs

	Happy and affectionate; dog likes
	Pulls away
	Goes belly up or flattens out
	Urinates
x	Stiff, statue
	Growls, barks or snaps; does not like

Push on shoulders

	Playful, interactive
	Playful, mouthy
x	Timid, shies away
	Timid, crawls back to tester
x	Indifferent, no reaction
	Whips head around
	Growls, lip curls or snarls
	Other:

Sensitivity to Handling

	Grabbing collar
	Touching feet
	Touching tail
	Looking in ears
x	Other: overall just timid, stiff
x	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

	Nice level of play
	Played with encouragement
	Became highly aroused (jumped up, body slammed, mouthed) but calmed down quickly
	Became highly aroused (jumped up, body slammed, mouthed) and stayed that way after the interaction stopped
x	Became fearful
x	Showed little/no interest in playing

Preferred toy

	Balls
	Bones
	Squeak Toy
	Rope Toys
	Stuffed Toys
	Chews Up Stuffed Toys

Comments:

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

	Fine, no reaction
	Wanted to play with hand
x	Timid, shy

Assess hand reaction with food present

x	Fine, no reaction
	Eats extremely fast
	Body blocks
	Freezes, lip curls or growls

	Bites hand
x	Other: would not eat

ENVIRONMENTAL:

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

Ability to use steps

	Fine; no problems noted
x	Fearful; will not attempt
	Slowly; may need assistance and/or encouragement
	Unable; mobility limitations

Reaction to cats

	Friendly; wants to play
	Chases playfully
	Fearful
	Indifferent/ignores
	Chases with intent to harm
	Other:

MANNERS AND OBEDIENCE SKILLS:

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

x	Appears to have no training (mark with "x" if appropriate)

Commands test

	Sit
	Down
	Come
	Stay
	Give Paw/Shake
	Drop

	Other:

Dog is motivated with

	Food
x	Praise – gentle, quiet
	Toys
	Other:

Ease of training

	Easy
	Moderate
x	Difficult – needs to gain trust and confidence first

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	X		
Counter Surfing	X		
Anxiety when left alone	X		
Other:			
Other:			

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:

x	Calm
	Busy
	Chaotic
	Any

Best Type of Owner:

	Experienced
	Capable
	Novice
x	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.

ONGOING OBSERVATION:

POTTY HABITS
Dated Tested:

	Routine, no problems noted
x	Occasional accident in kennel, not a serious issue
	Frequent accidents, will likely need remedial house training post adoption

Comments:

NOTES:

Benji is a big teddy bear.

Timid and shy but likes gentle petting and attention,
slowly approaches and even nudged me for petting.

Needs time to gain trust and confidence.

Any loud noises or fast movements make him cower or dart away.

Seemed afraid of toys or tennis balls when I tossed them,
he would turn and go the other way.