

Owner's Name\*

Owner's Last Name\*

Email\*

Phone\*

Date\*

City, State, Zip\*

Day Phone\*

Evening Phone\*

Who referred you? Friend, veterinarian, vet staff, rescue group, internet, other

## **ABOUT THE DOG**

Dog's Name\*

Breed\*

Age in years (if age is between 6-11 months, state 1 year)\*

Sex

Weight

NEUTERED / SPAYED

Age spayed or neutered

Age Obtained

From where (Breeder, Pet Store, Shelter)

If breeder, what is the name and location of breeder? If pet store, which one? If shelter, which specific shelter?

Purpose for obtaining this pet (Companion, Protection, Breeding, Show, Other)

Behavior of parents or littermates, if known

Describe your pet's personality

If you use adjectives to describe behavior like "stubborn" please explain what "stubborn" looks like. For example, dog refuses to move. Dog will not come when called. Dog stares at me when I give him a command.

## **MEDICATIONS**

Describe any current medical problems (i.e. ear infections, hip dysplasia, skin irritations, etc.)

List any medications your pet is currently taking and for what reason

## **FOOD/FEEDING**

Type of food (Dry, Moist)

Brand of food

What are the first three ingredients listed on the nutrition label?

Amount of food

How many times per day is dog fed?

Is the dog free fed? (This means that the food bowl is filled and placed on the floor all day long, or until the dog finishes what's in the bowl.)

Describe feeding habits (Poor Eater, Picky, Normal Appetite, Voracious)

Treats / supplements

Favorite treat

Do you use treat dispensing toys or puzzle bowls to feed your dog?

## **FEEDING RECOMMENDATION**

Add puzzle toys or some type of food dispensing toy to your dog's daily routine. This adds easy enrichment and mental stimulation. In fact, consider feeding at least one meal (if not all meals) out of a puzzle toy. These toys give your dog a problem solving job. Be patient, as it can take a few tries to find what food puzzle works best for your dog. The right food enrichment toy should keep him occupied for at least 20-30 minutes.

## **PLAY AND EXERCISE**

Describe amount and frequency of play and exercise, and with whom

Pet's favorite activity

If your dog loves to fetch (especially tennis balls), does the dog end the game OR do you end the game?

It is very important with a ball crazy dog to only toss the toy 5-6 times and then stop. Muscles fatigue after only half a dozen throws. Just like humans when we lift weights, we only do 9-10 reps and then we rest the body. We never do 40 reps or 50 reps until we just can't lift anymore. When you are tired (and even before you show signs of being tired) the body and the muscles are starting to fatigue. Constant

and repetitive fatigue over time causes injuries OR if an injury does occur, the body has a harder time healing. Be very careful with any repetitive games. Brain games or problem solving (puzzle) games are highly recommended.

Toys played with

Please list other pets in the household, their species, breed, age, sex, whether or not they are neutered or spayed, etc. (Dogs, cats, and any other animals)

#### **DAILY ROUTINE**

Please describe a typical 24 hour period in your dog's life – start with where and when the dog wakes up in the morning and end with where and when the dog goes to sleep

#### **HUSBANDRY**

Nail Trimming

Giving medication (orally and/or eye drops)

Cleaning ears

Grooming

Bathing

Petting head

Rubbing Tummy

Picking up

Rolling Over

#### **HOW IS YOUR DOG WITH THE FOLLOWING:**

Familiar dogs

Unfamiliar dogs

Familiar people

Unfamiliar people

If you use adjectives to describe behavior like "aggressive" please explain what "aggressive" looks like.

## **LIVING SPACES**

Do you live in house, apartment, condo, other?

Describe where pet stays at each of the following times:

When family is home

When family is away

When family sleeps

When guests visit

## **BEING LEFT ALONE**

How long is the dog home alone on average each day?

Dog's reaction when left alone?

Dog's reaction prior to departure?

Dog's reaction at homecoming?

Percentage of time indoors:

Percentage of time outdoors:

Where is the dog kept when outdoors?

How often is dog outdoors unsupervised? How long?

## **CAR RIDES**

How does your dog react to car rides?

Do you ever leave your dog alone in the car?

## **TRAINING**

Has the dog ever attended a puppy socialization class?

If not, why not?

Has the dog ever attended a formal obedience training class?

If not, why not?

At what age

With which family member(s)?

Success (Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor)

## TRAINING EQUIPMENT

What type of collar do you use for training? (Flat, Head, Choke, Prong, Shock). If you use a harness does the O ring attach to the front and center of the harness or to the back of the harness?

The O ring (or D ring) is what the leash attaches to.

Please describe the type of training (Strictly positive reinforcement, some positive reinforcement, punishment, etc.)

Please note that aversive training tools (choke chains, prong collars and shock collars / electronic collars) and punishment based techniques (leash corrections, leash pops, yank and thank, lifting a dog off the ground with the leash) are NOT positive reinforcement.

## KNOWN BEHAVIORS

What will the dog do on command reliably in the home? (Highlight all that apply)

- Sit
- Stand
- Down
- Come
- Stay
- Leave It
- Heel
- Fetch
- Tricks

What will the dog do on command reliably outside the home?

Any ongoing training?

How did you teach SIT?

How did you teach DOWN?

How did you teach COME?

How did you teach STAY?

How did you teach LLW (Loose Leash Walking)?

Family member(s) with most control?

Family member(s) with least control?

## **LEARNING**

Describe your dog's learning ability: (Fast, slow, stubborn, easily distracted, etc.)

If you use adjectives to describe behavior like "stubborn" please explain what "stubborn" looks like.

## **CRATE TRAINING**

Have you ever used a crate for confinement?

Do you still use a crate? If so, when?

What type of crate do you use? (Wire kennel, plastic airline kennel, canvas crate, etc.)

Crate location:

Crates can be wonderful management tools. They can help a shy dog build confidence AND they can help a hyper dog learn to settle and relax.

Describe the dog's reaction to being crated:

If you stopped, explain when and why:

## **PUNISHMENT / AVERSIVES**

Have you used any of the following correction techniques? (Please highlight or circle all that apply)

- Physical (hitting)
- Leash corrections (jerks or snapping of the leash)
- Noise (shaker can/siren)
- Water spray (squirt bottle)
- Verbal (shouting or the word "NO!")
- Muzzle grasp
- Pinning / Rolling over
- Time Out
- Other:

It is important to remember that punishment does not provide adequate information to a learner. Punishment happens after the behavior. It is better to be proactive rather than reactive. Teach the dog what you want him/her TO DO, rather than punishing him/her after the fact.

What was the success rate of these techniques? (High, Medium, Low, None)

Has any punishment made the problem worse or caused aggression?

Does the pet react differently to punishment from different family members?

## **AGGRESSIVE AND/OR REACTIVE BEHAVIOR**

Does your dog do any of the following? (Please highlight or circle all that apply)

- Glare/ stare or threaten
- Bark threatenly
- Growl
- Snap
- Bite or grab/ but not break skin

Has your dog ever bitten hard enough to break the skin or cause injury to a person or dog?

Is your dog aggressive to family members? Please describe in detail:

Is your dog aggressive to non-family members? Please describe in detail:

Do any of the following cause aggression (growl, snarl, lip curl, bark, snap, bite, glare)? Describe circumstances such as approach when eating, chewing toy or bone, disturbed when resting, punishment or discipline, people or animals entering home or yard:

Is there any particular type of handling that leads to aggression? (Please highlight or circle all that apply)

- Lifting
- Petting
- Grooming
- Trimming Nails
- Cleaning Ears
- Brushing Teeth
- Giving Medication
- Other:

Describe any other situations, not previously discussed where the pet has been aggressive:

Is there a particular person or type of person (baby, children, men, etc.) that the dog is aggressive toward?

Does your dog show fear at the time of aggression? (Growling, snapping, biting accompanied by cowering, ears back, lowered head, neck or body, hackles raised, tail tucked, retreating, hiding) Please describe in detail:

Describe any situations that make your pet shy, fearful or timid:

If you use adjectives to describe behavior like "fearful" please explain what "fearful" looks like.

## EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION ON REACTIVITY

### What is reactivity?

***Reactivity comes from anxiety, which comes from feeling uncertain about something. Reactivity is an information-seeking strategy.*** A reactive dog will rush toward something or someone that he is uncertain about, barking, lunging, growling, and often making a big display. People sometimes perceive reactive behavior as aggression, but a reactive dog is not rushing in to do damage; he is attempting to assess the threat level of a given situation (even where there is no threat). His assessment strategy is intensified because he is panicking as the adrenaline flows through his body. If a reactive dog learns to feel confident about something, he is less worried about that thing and therefore reacts less to it.

***Reactive dogs are anxious and their response is intense because they are freaking out.***

That is why clear rule structures are necessary for anxious dogs. They need to know what is happening next, and they need to know they are safe. If left untreated, reactivity can escalate into aggression. Most aggression is anxiety related.

### Please describe the primary problem and how it developed

What is the severity level? (Mild, moderate, severe, other)

What do you think is the reason for your dog's problem?

How many times has the problem occurred in the past week?

How many times has the problem occurred in the past month?

How many times has the problem occurred in the past year?

Describe any change in frequency or appearance, and reason why:

What age was your pet when this problem started? Describe in detail the first incident:

Always the same.

Were there changes in the home when the problem first appeared that seemed to affect the dog?

What has been done so far to correct the problem? (Discipline, crate, etc.)

What was the dog's response?

What techniques have been successful?

What techniques have made the problem worse?

List any training devices tried so far and the dog's response: (Please highlight or circle all that apply)

- Head collar
- Gentle Leader
- Air horns
- Spray bottle

- Prong collar
- Shock collar
- Other:

### **MEDICATIONS AND/OR SUPPLEMENTS FOR BEHAVIOR ISSUES**

Have any drugs been tried? If yes, please list drugs, dosage, dates and effect on the pet:

Additional comments on principal problem:

Are there any specific conditions which seem to trigger the behavior?

Can the dog be interrupted when engaged in the behavior?

How long is the interval between the behavior stopping and the beginning of the next occurrence?

### **SHORT TERM AND LONG TERM GOALS**

For example: Your dog has gotten into 5 fights with other dogs and of those 5 fights, he has sent 5 dog to the vet with bite wounds. Your goal is for your dog to play nicely with other dogs. This is not a “reasonable” goal.: Another example: Your dog barks and is reactive to other dogs while on leash. Your goal is to be able to take your dog on neighborhood walks without any reactivity towards other dogs. This is a “reasonable” goal.:

**Based on these examples, what is your immediate short term goal with positive training and behavior modification? What is your long term goal with positive training and behavior modification?**

### **MANAGEMENT**

Management plays a critical role in behavior modification. The more you practice something the better you get at it – whether that is a good behavior or a bad behavior. Do NOT let your dog practice inappropriate behaviors. Set up the dog (and you) for success by avoiding triggers WHILE you are working on a behavior action plan. Management is the key to helping your dog NOT rehearse / practice inappropriate behavior.

### **THRESHOLD (What is going over threshold?)**

When we refer to a dog going “over threshold” we are referring to the point at which the dog transitions from high arousal, into a state where the thinking part of the brain is dulled, and the dog’s behavior becomes driven almost exclusively by instinct and emotion.

One of the features of going “over threshold” is that the dog will lose the ability to follow the owner’s cues. It is important to recognize that the dog is not choosing to ignore you when this happens, it is simply impossible for the dog to respond to your cues in this state.

Hyper-arousal itself is not a bad thing, it is a necessary and normal response to a life-threatening situation. In our domestic dogs however, we often see ineffective habituation, as well as anxiety and perception issues, leading to exaggerated responses to non-life-threatening stimuli. We also see non-fear-based emotions, such as frustration and excitement leading to this same state.

Repeatedly reaching a hyper-aroused state in response to non-life-threatening stimuli is unhealthy. It also poses a potential safety risk to other dogs and/or people. This is because one of the primary issues with a dog entering a hyper-aroused state is the risk for tipping into aggression or provoking aggressive behaviors in another dog.

## **ADDITIONAL ISSUES**

Additional Problems (Please highlight or circle all that apply)

- Barking / Howling
- Destructive (digs
- chews
- scratches)
- Excitement Urination
- Housetraining / Urine marking
- Submissive Urination
- Stool eating (Coprophagia)
- Chases cars / people / moving objects
- Hunting / chasing animals
- Jumps up (on owner and/or guests)
- Goes on furniture where not permitted
- Goes into rooms where not permitted
- Garbage raiding / food stealing
- Pushy – wants own way
- Disobedient / runs away
- Won’t come when called
- Unruly / Only listens when feels like it
- Has difficulty calming down once aroused or excited
- Humping / mounting / masturbation
- Chews self – lick granuloma
- Overly submissive
- Eats non-food items
- Flank sucking / tail biting / fly chasing
- Other