

THE MATCH-UP II SHELTER DOG REHOMING PROGRAM

For more information on the Match-Up II Program, please contact the
Center for Shelter Dogs at csd@arlboston.org or register online at
<http://matchupllonline.centerforshelterdogs.org>!



BECAUSE EVERY DOG IS DIFFERENT.



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UNDERSTANDING
EVERY DOG TO MAKE THE
MOST SUCCESSFUL MATCHES.

Why Match-Up II?

- Comprehensive, multi-part system
- On-going development and validation
- Research-based
- Standardized



Match-Up II

Match-Up stands for the “Marder-Animal Rescue League Test for Canine Homing Using Personality”.

The Match-Up II Shelter Dog Rehoming Program is a multi-part system, which incorporates information from a dog’s behavioral history, behavior evaluation, and behavior in a shelter, in order to get a comprehensive view of a dog’s individual needs. The program is designed to help shelters learn about the personality and needs of every dog so that behavioral interventions can be implemented and successful matches can be made.

The program includes a standardized behavior evaluation that can be conducted in 15-20 minutes. Match-Up II is an objective way to evaluate dog behavioral tendencies and personality because the dog’s responses are described by observed behaviors, body postures and movement, without interpretation or judgement of motivations. On-going research is constantly being conducted by the CSD in order to ensure that the Match-Up II Rehoming Program and its behavior evaluation is one of the most valid and reliable behavioral assessments in the animal sheltering industry.

A Comprehensive, Multi-Part System

The Match-Up II Shelter Dog Rehoming Program consists of 5 parts:

- 1. Behavioral History** The first part of the Match-Up II Program involves collecting a dog’s behavioral history. The dog’s behavior in the previous home can be an important predictor of some behaviors, so a thorough and objective behavioral history should be obtained for every dog whenever possible.
- 2. Behavior Evaluation** The behavior evaluation is a standardized test which measures a dog’s behavioral reactions to a series of scenarios, which are referred to as sub-tests. Match-Up II is an objective way to evaluate dog behavioral tendencies and personality because the dog’s responses in each sub-test are described by observed behaviors, body postures and movement, without interpretation or judgement of motivations. For example, the dog’s response to an unfamiliar person is described by indicating whether it was moving away with tail tucked, sniffing or approaching wagging tail, rather than by saying the dog does or doesn’t like the person.
- 3. Personality Scores** One outcome of the Match-Up II behavior evaluation is the Personality Scores. These scores reflect six common personality traits or characteristics (Friendliness, Fearfulness, Excitability, Aggressiveness, Playfulness, and Trainability) of dogs. These personality scores can help you find the best home and dog-adopter match for each individual dog.
- 4. Shelter Behavior** This part of Matchup II takes into account behaviors observed while the dog is housed in the shelter that may have been missed or not reported in the behavioral history or observed during the behavior evaluation.
- 5. Behavioral Triage** The last part of the Match-Up II Program, captures information from the dog’s behavioral history, behavior evaluation, and shelter behavior, in order to calculate the dog’s behavioral triage points. By using information from behavioral triage, including the dog’s triage points, shelters are able to make informed decisions regarding behavioral interventions and the most appropriate placement for each dog based on individual needs.



