

# Introduction to the Center for Shelter Dogs



A program of the Animal Rescue League of Boston

Dedicated to **improving the welfare of homeless dogs** cared for by humane organizations, animal control facilities, and rescue groups throughout the nation

**Science-based research** and outcome assessment are the cornerstones of our efforts



CENTER FOR

# Shelter Dogs

A PROGRAM OF THE ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

## **Match-Up II Shelter Dog Rehoming Program**

Sheila D'Arpino, DVM

Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Behaviorists

Center for Shelter Dogs

Animal Rescue League of Boston

Notes from this lecture available at: [http://  
www.centerforshelterdogs.org/Home/ResearchandEducation/  
ResourceLibrary.aspx](http://www.centerforshelterdogs.org/Home/ResearchandEducation/ResourceLibrary.aspx)

# Why Conduct a Behavior Evaluation?

Get to know the dog as an individual

Find most compatible home

Counsel adopters about expected behaviors and how to manage them

To understand and modify problem behaviors before a dog is rehomed

Prevent dangerous dogs from being placed into the community

# Why Match-Up II?

Comprehensive, multi-part system

Standardized and objective

Practical

Research-based, ongoing validation

Provides common language for users

CSD support for evaluator training



# Match-Up II Online





## **The Components**

# Match-Up II Components

Behavior History

Behavior Evaluation

Personality Scoring

Behavior in the Shelter

Behavioral Triage

# Behavioral History

Obtained from Behavioral History questions at intake

Used to complete Behavioral History part of Behavioral Triage



1. Behavioral History
2. Behavior Evaluation
3. Personality Scoring
4. Behavior in the Shelter
5. Behavioral Triage

# Behavior Evaluation

11 subtests

Objective: based on observations of behaviors, not interpretation

Behaviors are the building blocks of Match-Up II

Behaviors either occur or don't



1. Behavioral History
2. Behavior Evaluation
3. Personality Scoring
4. Behavior in the Shelter
5. Behavioral Triage

# Behaviors Evaluated in MU II

## Person, doll or dog

Lick

Nudge

Jump up

Sniff



## Body

Cower

Tremble

Stiff

Playbow



1. Behavioral History
2. Behavior Evaluation
3. Personality Scoring
4. Behavior in the Shelter
5. Behavioral Triage

# Behaviors Evaluated in MU II

## Tail

Wag

Tuck

## Mouth

Lip lick

Soft mouth

Show teeth

Snap

## Vocalizations

Bark

Growl



1. Behavioral History
2. Behavior Evaluation
3. Personality Scoring
4. Behavior in the Shelter
5. Behavioral Triage

# Recording Observed Behaviors

Occurrence checked either on worksheet or clicked on computer (MU II Online)

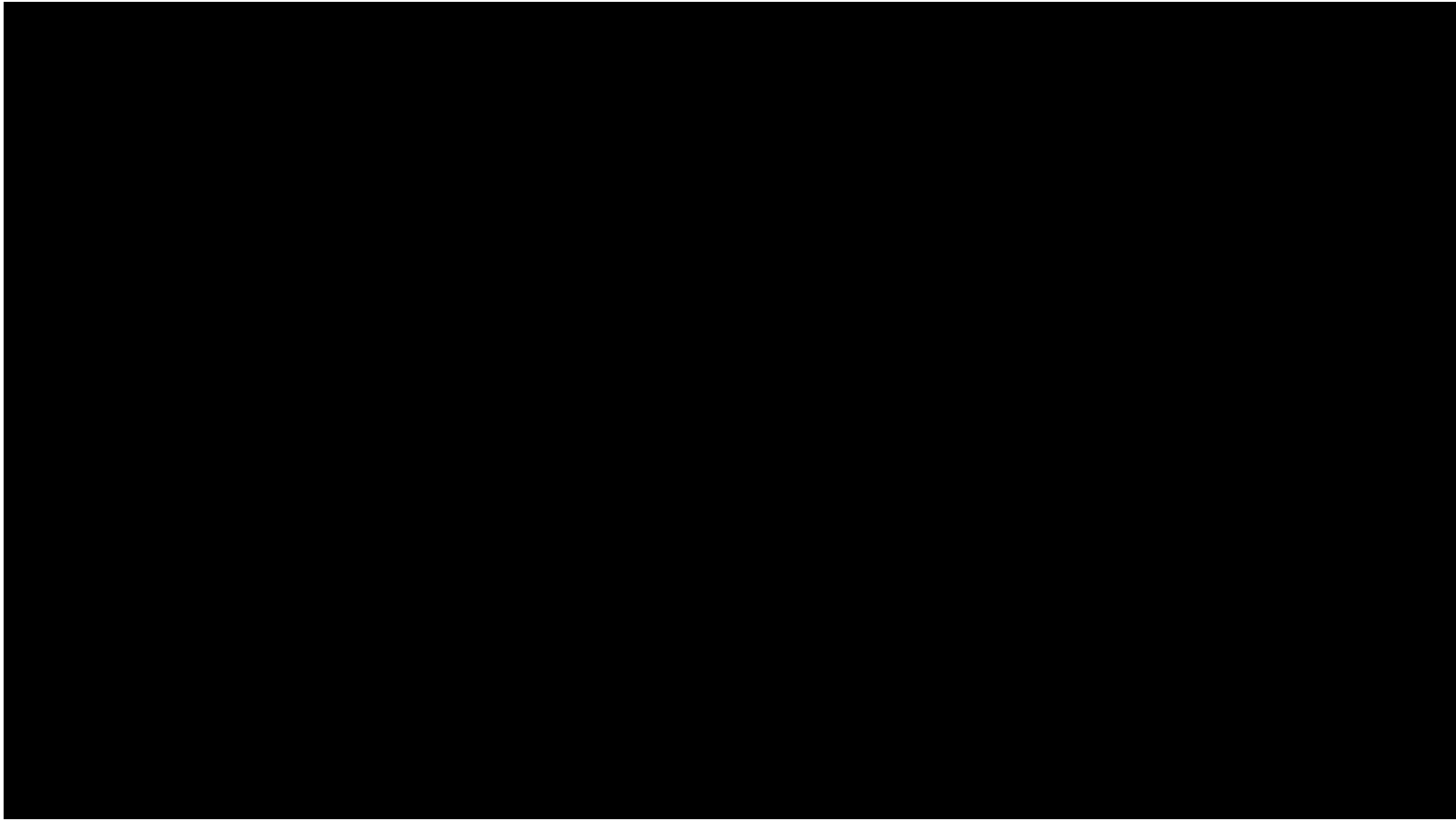
SUB-TEST		BEHAVIORS										Personality Scores Subtotal		
<b>1. Leash Manners</b>												NA		
Handler walks dog outside. Observe leash behavior and report to Recorder.		Doesn't Pull		Pulls Lightly		Pulls Medium		Pulls Hard		Grabs Leash with Mouth				
Comments:														
<b>2. Room Behavior</b>		Person		Body		Tail		Mouth		Vocalizations		Personality Scores Subtotal for Sub-test 2.1		
<b>Part 1: Explore 2 mins</b>		Lick Person	Fe	Cower	Fe	Wag Tail	Fe	Lip Lick	Fe	Whine		NA		
Handler drops leash when entering room and sits in chair in middle of room. Watch but do not talk to or interact with dog during the 2 min.		Nudge Hand	Fe	Tremble	Fe	Tuck Tail	Fe	Hard Mouth Person	Fe	Bark		3		
		Jump/Grip on Person	Fe	Hide	Fe			Grab Clothes	Fe	Growl				
		Stay Near Person (w/ tail)	Fe	Crouch	Fe	Ears		Soft Mouth Person	Fe					
		Sniff Person	Fe	Jump Up (not on person)	Fe	Ears Back	Pub.	Grab Leash	Fe	Other				
		Run Away from Person	Fe	Stiff	A			Inhibited Bite	A					
		Back Away from Person	Fe	Playbow	Fe			Uninhibited Bite	A					
		Mount Person	Fe					Show Teeth	A					
		Pass Person	Fe					Snag	A					
		Approach Person	NA											
		Comments:												

# Behavior Evaluation Sub-tests

1. Leash Manners: Walk dog outdoors
2. Room Behavior: Explore two minutes, then call dog to come, and then pet
3. Commands/Cues: Sit, Down, Stay, Come, Shake
4. Handling (feet)
5. Play (tennis ball, squeaky ball, tug toy)

# Behavior Evaluation Subtests

6. Run and Freeze
7. Intro to Rubber Hand
8. Possessive Behavior (food and pig's ear)
9. Toddler Doll
10. Strange Looking Woman
11. Dog-Dog Interaction



# Personality Scoring

## Personality Trait Scores\*

1. Friendliness
2. Fearfulness
3. Excitability
4. Aggressiveness
5. Trainability
6. Playfulness

1. Behavioral History
2. Behavior Evaluation
3. Personality Scoring
4. Behavior in the Shelter
5. Behavioral Triage

\*Calculated automatically with MU II Online!

# Behavior in the Shelter

- Behavior toward staff, volunteers and public (men, children)
- Behavior on walks
- Behavior toward other animals



1. Behavioral History
2. Behavior Evaluation
3. Personality Scoring
4. Behavior in the Shelter
5. Behavioral Triage

# Behavioral Triage

Incorporates all information known about each dog and gives points for behaviors

- Behavioral history
- Behavior evaluation
- Behavior observed in the shelter
- Consideration for weight

1. Behavioral History
2. Behavior Evaluation
3. Personality Scoring
4. Behavior in the Shelter
5. Behavioral Triage

Helps shelters make informed decisions about placement and behavior programs

Calculated automatically with MU II Online

# Match-Up II Online

Behavioral History  Behavior Evaluation  Shelter Behavior  Triage Report

Last updated by Amy Marder 4/14/2011 at 8:49 PM

Behavior Triage Points	Personality Scores	Potential Problems Identified
Behavioral History: 3	Friendliness:  31	• Jumpy/Mouthy
Evaluation (4/14/2011): 4	Fearfulness:  2	
Shelter Behavior: 1	Excitability:  13	
Weight: 40 - 49 lbs	Aggressiveness:  0	
<b>Total: 9</b>	Playfulness:  10	
	Trainability:  9	

**Triage Point Range Descriptions**

**0-3 Points**  
The dog exhibited few or no problematic behaviors and is likely to be a good candidate for adoption with routine screening and counseling.

**4-20 points**  
The dog exhibited some problematic behaviors and is likely to be a candidate for adoption into a selected home. The dog may benefit from behavior modification training in the shelter and/or problem-based behavior counseling.

**21+ points**  
The dog exhibited numerous and/or severe problematic behaviors and should be discussed carefully in terms of adoption prospects in the community. If it is decided the dog is likely to benefit from behavior modification training in the shelter and/or problem-based behavior counseling.

**Recommended Behavior Training**

**Jumpy/Mouthy**

Remember, it is important to provide dogs with social interaction, mental stimulation, and the exercise that they need. Visit our [enrichment programs](#) to find out more.

**Triage Outcome Categories (please select)**

Indicate your shelter's recommendation for the dog below.

Points are guidelines which create a common language when discussing individual dogs, and help shelters make plans for individual dogs.

# Behavioral Triage – Outcome Categories

## **0-3 points and no aggression**

Suitable for adoption with routine screening and counseling

## **≥4 points or 0-3 points with aggression**

Adoption with routine screening and counseling, may have some restrictions

Adoption with behavioral counseling

Adoption with behavior modification training and behavioral counseling

Adoption with BM, BC and post-adoption counseling

Foster home, trainer etc

Not suitable for adoption into community (household) setting

# Match-Up II Online

Automatic calculation of personality scores and Triage points

Faster and easier than manual calculation

Behavior modification recommended for problem behaviors

Training & Resources Page

<http://matchupiionline.centerforshelterdogs.org>



Match-Up II

# Thank You!

Register as a Shelter Partner today:

[www.matchupionline.centerforshelterdogs.org](http://www.matchupionline.centerforshelterdogs.org)

Next webinar February 16 at 2:00 EST

amarder@arlboston.org

**Notes from this lecture available at: <http://www.centerforshelterdogs.org/Home/ResearchandEducation/ResourceLibrary.aspx>**