

# ADULT DOG BODY HANDLING CHECKLIST

## Completing the Checklist Tables

The checklist table provided can be used to track the dog's desensitization to handling. You can use one of the following scoring systems to grade the dog's response or you can just check off each exposure. Ensure the dog's handling experiences are positive, not neutral or bad. This is accomplished by watching the dog's body language (Learn more: Body Language Handout) and giving highly valued treats. It is important to always feed the dog treats throughout the duration of each type of handling. If the dog is not interested in the treats this may indicate discomfort or that the treat is not high-value enough.

**⚠ Note: If the dog's comfort during handling sessions is not improving or is becoming more fearful, stop and consult your veterinarian.**

### SCORING SYSTEM 1

| PROGRESS          | SCORE | RESPONSE TO PERSON, OBJECT, ENVIRONMENT OR HANDLING   |
|-------------------|-------|---|
| NEEDS IMPROVEMENT | 1     | <b>Over-arousal:</b> Growl, nip, bark, struggle, try to get at person/object or lunge   |
|                   | 2     | <b>Avoid:</b> Struggle, hide, won't approach, try to run away or hesitant to approach   |
|                   | 3     | <b>Freeze:</b> Holds still (but not eating), non-exploratory, moving slowly or appears sluggish when the animal should not be tired |
| SATISFACTORY      | 4     | <b>Calm:</b> Relaxed, explores the object or environment, playful and focused on treats   |
|                   | 5     | <b>Calm:</b> Relaxed, explores the object or environment and playful even without food  |

**Note: Additionally, a "+" can be used to denote better progress and a "-" to denote less progress: e.g. 2+, 2, and 2- indicate three different levels of response.**

### SCORING SYSTEM 2

#### FIDO BEHAVIOR SCORING SYSTEM

| SCORE   | BODY LANGUAGE   |
|---|---|
| <b>GREEN</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NOT FEARFUL</li> <li>• FEELS SAFE</li> </ul>                |   |
| <b>RED</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FEARFUL</li> <li>• DOES NOT FEEL SAFE</li> </ul>              |  |
| <b>YELLOW</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AMBIVALENT</li> <li>• CANNOT SCORE GREEN OR RED</li> </ul> |  |

CHECKLIST



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DOG ID: \_\_\_\_\_

START DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

| Specific Activity                | Sun | Location | Mon | Location | Tue | Location | Wed | Location | Thu | Location | Fri | Location | Sat | Location |
|----------------------------------|-----|----------|-----|----------|-----|----------|-----|----------|-----|----------|-----|----------|-----|----------|
| <b>Foundation</b>                |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Approach                         |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Treat from hand                  |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Sit side-by-side                 |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Place hand next to paw on ground |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| <b>Level 1 – touch</b>           |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Touch body on chest              |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Touch body on back               |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Touch back of head               |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Touch ears (one at a time)       |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Touch cheek                      |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Touch paw                        |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Touch nose                       |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Touch forehead                   |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |

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| <b>Level 2 – stroke</b>                |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Stroke sides and chest                 |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Stroke head to tail                    |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Rub ears                               |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Stroke side of muzzle                  |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Stroke nose                            |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Stroke face around eyes                |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Give belly rub                         |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| <b>Level 3 – hold</b>                  |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Hold paw                               |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Hold different parts of the dog's body |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Give a hug                             |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Hold on lap                            |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Pick-up                                |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |

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| <b>Level 4 – examine</b>                                      |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Massage trunk including back, sides, and chest                |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Pull back ear   |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Touch and then lift lip                                       |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Massage paw   |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Gently squeeze nose   |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Gently open the eyelids upwards, not pulling away from body   |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Examine vaginal area  |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Examine penis and testicles                                   |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Tent/ pinch the skin  |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| <b>Gear</b>   |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Hold the collar/leash/harness in dog's view and let dog sniff |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Put on a collar/leash/harness                                 |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Walk on lead  |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Put on coat/clothes   |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |

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| <b>Medical</b>                            |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Hand a kibble inside a soft treat         |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Hand a pill inside a soft treat           |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Give water orally with needleless syringe |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Give liquid medication                    |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Touch nose with needleless syringe        |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Give intranasal vaccine                   |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Poke tented skin with capped syringe      |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Give vaccine injection                    |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Lift tail and touch anus                  |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Rectal temperature                        |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Lift ear and touch with medication bottle |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Give ear drops                            |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Open eye and place bottle against brow    |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Give eye drops                            |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |

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| <b>Grooming</b>                                |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Brush dog's back                               |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Brush entire body                              |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Place in dry tub and stroke body               |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Bathe the dog                                  |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Wipe with a towel                              |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Dry dog after a bath                           |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Hover hairdryer (off then on) near dog         |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Blow-dry hair                                  |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Touch dog with scissors/clippers (off then on) |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Trim and clip hair                             |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Touch paws then nails with nail clippers       |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Trim nails                                     |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Touch toothbrush to lips then gums/teeth       |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |
| Brush teeth with dog toothpaste                |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |     |          |

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