



July 31, 2013

Dear Kathy Lane:

We really enjoyed meeting Jess today! During the social evaluation process our goal is to ensure that our group environment is a good fit for your dog. Our highest priority is the physical safety and emotional well-being of all dogs that attend our play groups.

Our assessment today indicates:

The group dog play environment is not a good fit for Jess, please see our specific recommendations for her below.

The specific behaviors that we observed today that led to this decision and our recommendations that follow included:

1. Jess displayed warning signals meeting our evaluator dogs including lip curl, snarl, growls and warning snaps
2. Jess's body posture and signals never relaxed during the session as her ears and lips were pulled back most of the time; she displayed multiple stress signals including lip licking, half-moon eye and panting
3. Jess showed little interest in interacting with the evaluator dogs she met with exception of Buddy
4. The evaluator dogs avoided interacting or trying to engage with Jess and this is very unusual behavior from them
5. During the small group play session Jess avoided interactions with the dogs and gave multiple warning signals when they would approach her too closely

Our recommendations:

Jess' behavior tells us that she has little interest in interacting with other dogs at this time. The environment of off-leash play would not be enjoyable for her now due to being forced into a group interaction too intense that could push her to use higher level of aggressive displays.

We could try private socialization sessions where Jess would be introduced slowly to other dogs at a pace comfortable for her. We would try to find matches like Buddy to whom she showed some interest, but that would respect her boundaries and warnings. We also recommend additional obedience training and use of cues at home. A private training session at home could be the best starting point to address your behavior concerns with Jess there.

You have a great dog and we do appreciate you letting us meet Jess and evaluate her for our playgroups today. We look forward to her training visits with us.

Robin & Susan

Founders
The Dog Gurus