

A5784484/ERNIE'S Behavior Assessments

June 23, 2026

E26-094264

<u>Animal ID:</u>	A5784484	<u>Play Style:</u>	GENTLE/DAINTY	<u>Kids:</u>	ADULTS ONLY (REQ)
<u>Eval Type:</u>	PLAYGROUP	<u>Sociability:</u>	SOCIAL	<u>Large Dogs:</u>	CALM DOGS (REC)
<u>Eval Location:</u>	DOWNEY	<u>Reactive:</u>	NON REACTIVE	<u>Small Dogs:</u>	
<u>Eval Date:</u>	06/23/2026	<u>Ken Handling:</u>	FEARFUL/FROZEN	<u>Energy Level:</u>	MEDIUM
<u>Review Date:</u>				<u>Training:</u>	CONFIDENCE BUILDING

Eval Comments: The behaviors described today reflect the dog's responses in an Animal Care Center environment and during assessment. A dog's behavior in an Animal Care Center may differ significantly from how they behave in a home. Stress, confinement, and unfamiliar surroundings can cause dogs to act out—or suppress behaviors that may emerge later. A dog's behavior may change based on surroundings, training, medical, socialization, and life experiences.

Ernie A5784484 (Intact) exhibited a nervous demeanor in the presence of the runner, reluctant to approach. The runner had to partially step into the kennel to leash him, though multiple attempts were needed as Ernie repeatedly evaded the leash. Once leashed, Ernie was leash-guided out of the kennel with some coaxing as he hesitated to exit on his own. Ernie was led to the catch pen, requiring light leash tension to discourage pulling, as he appeared nervous passing through the kennel environment. Inside the catch pen, he was gently collared and leashed, maintaining a timid demeanor during the process. Ernie was allowed into the yard, where he ignored the other dogs, preferring to explore his surroundings. He eventually chose to remain under a table near the handlers, responding with a lip curl or a bark to signal personal space when approached by other dogs. Ernie gradually began to engage with the handlers, soliciting affection on multiple occasions. Ernie was accommodated in a yard with calm dogs to allow him to interact at his own pace. He first acclimated to the yard by roaming on his own but eventually showed interest in one of the female dogs, sniffing her first before he performed a brief play bow without sustained engagement. Ernie took corrections well from the other dog after he attempted to mount her. For the rest of the session, Ernie coexisted peacefully with everyone, preferring to wander the yard with his friend, displaying a relaxed posture. Once the session concluded, he remained in the yard to begin the handling assessment. Ernie could benefit from continued socialization in a yard with calm dogs, as this can help him interact at his own comfort level and gradually develop his social skills.

E26-094265

<u>Animal ID:</u>	A5784484	<u>Play Style:</u>	GENTLE/DAINTY	<u>Kids:</u>	ADULTS ONLY (REQ)
<u>Eval Type:</u>	HANDLING	<u>Sociability:</u>	SOCIAL	<u>Large Dogs:</u>	CALM DOGS (REC)
<u>Eval Location:</u>	DOWNEY	<u>Reactive:</u>	NON REACTIVE	<u>Small Dogs:</u>	
<u>Eval Date:</u>	06/23/2026	<u>Ken Handling:</u>	FEARFUL/FROZEN	<u>Energy Level:</u>	MEDIUM
<u>Review Date:</u>				<u>Training:</u>	CONFIDENCE BUILDING

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Ernie A5784484 (Intact) was allowed to decompress prior to the assessment. Firm leash control was required to keep him still as he attempted to evade the handler. Once settled, Ernie stood with a nervous demeanor observing handling of his ears, mouth, abdomen, front paws, and tail without incident. However, he whimpered and pulled away when the handler attempted to examine his hind legs. No further attempts were made to minimize stress for Ernie. He displayed a slightly tense posture, with a closed mouth, a low tail, ears slightly back, and a soft, concerned gaze. Once the session concluded, he was returned to his kennel, appearing more confident while returning. Due to his nervous nature, Ernie could benefit from slow introductions to allow him to gradually warm up to people. An experience owner is highly recommended, who is willing to patiently work with her handling skills and confidence.