



CLIENT COPY

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Owner Name: MISTY CERNAUSKAS
 Patient Name: KEEPER
 MSU Record #: 718032
 Signalment: Miniature Australian Shepherd, F, 0
 Phone #: Cell #248-714-5508

CC: Copy Sent On _____ Copy Sent By _____

DISMISSAL INFORMATION

Date of Admission: 06/15/2020

Date of Discharge: 06/15/2020

Attending Clinicians: Marie Hopfensperger DVM, DACVB; Jessica Buccilli, BS, LVT, UW-AAB

Diagnosis: Generalized Anxiety

Presenting Complaint:

Keeper (formerly Nell) is a 14-week-old female toy / mini Australian Shepherd presenting for a behavior evaluation prior to rehoming.

History:

Keeper / Nell was purchased from Misty by a family in Washington, DC at about 9 weeks of age. The family reported that Keeper / Nell exhibited growling when they picked her up, as well as coprophagia. Growling was also reported by the primary care veterinarian the puppy saw for an initial examination. The family elected to return Keeper / Nell to Misty.

Misty has not observed any growling while in her care. Previously noted crying during car rides has not been observed. Keeper / Nell continues to interact well with the other dogs and cat in Misty's household.

Misty obtained and emailed the following videos for our review prior to today's appointment:

- The arrival of her sister and nieces to the home without other household dogs present
- An outing to a park without another familiar dog present, but with an unfamiliar dog greeting her
- An outing to a store without another familiar dog present

See preliminary email communication, Friendship Animal Hospital veterinary records, Animal Behavior Wellness Center notes for additional information, and 6/4/2020 MSU report for further information.

Physical Findings:

Weight: 9.5 lbs (4.3 kg) BCS: 4/9 (ideal)

Behavioral Exam: Keeper / Nell was bright, alert, and responsive when observed outside. Dr. Hopfensperger knelt down angled slightly away the puppy, Keeper / Nell approached readily. She was social and appropriate, jumping up and allowing petting. Keeper / Nell became anxious when attempting to enter the building without Misty (due to COVID restrictions). Keeper / Nell halted and would not cross the threshold. Dr. Hopfensperger picked Nell up and carried her into the building. Once inside, Keeper / Nell was offered jerky-style dog treats, which she initially declined. She eventually investigated and starting eating the treats while on the scale. Meat flavored baby food was offered, which Keeper / Nell readily ate. In the examination room, Keeper / Nell remained food motivated, social, and appropriate. She quickly learned to sit on a yoga mat for treats. Physical examination, including rectal temperature, and vaccination were performed while offering baby food. No aggression exhibited. Keeper / Nell was very tractable and cooperative with positive reinforcement. As Dr. Hopfensperger lead Keeper / Nell out of the exam room, her anxiety resurfaced when she saw a large dog passing by. Nell / Keeper retreated back into the exam room. Dr. Hopfensperger waited until the hallway

and lobby were quiet and clear to take Keeper / Nell out; she remained anxious until she saw Misty in the parking lot.

Physical Exam: Mucous membranes pink / moist / CRT < 2 seconds. Heart and lung sounds were within normal limits. Abdomen was soft and non-painful upon palpation. EENT normal. Peripheral lymph nodes normal. Rectal temperature was 100.3 F.

Videos of these interactions were obtained because Misty was not able to be present and observe due to COVID restrictions.

Treatment/Procedures Performed:

12.5 mg Benadryl / **diphenhydramine** was administered orally prior to vaccination.

Rabies vaccination was administered SQ in the right hip. Misty was advised of potential vaccination reactions; Keeper / Nell has no history of vaccine reactions.

Additional Information:

Firstly, it is important to commend your due diligence in having Keeper / Nell evaluated prior to rehoming! Based on Dr. Hopfensperger's and Jessica's interactions with Keeper / Nell today, as well as videos reviewed, it appears there is evidence of generalized anxiety. No aggression was observed today.

Secondly, Keeper / Nell is clearly a very clever and adorable puppy! She quickly learned place training (sitting on a yoga mat) during her visit. She was also very food motivated for high-value treats (meat baby food). While anxiety was observed upon entering and exiting the hospital, Keeper / Nell was social and appropriate in the examination room and during examination and vaccination.

It's important to recognize that Keeper / Nell did very well with positive reinforcement interactions. She is a puppy we could have scared if we hadn't utilize a gentle approach and treats. On videos provided, Keeper / Nell was easily scared by a dog approaching on her walk and occasionally retreated from interactions with people at the store. At this age, fleeing is her strategy when she is overwhelmed or anxious. However, this can change with age. When dogs approach social maturity, around 1 year of age, we can see a strategy shift, with a transition from shy or avoidant puppy / juvenile behaviors to more assertive ways of expressing fear. This is the fight-or-flight response. Puppies utilize "flight" more so than adult dogs, who may rely on "fight" especially if retreating is not an option (e.g. when cornered or on leash).

At this point Keeper's / Nell's signs of anxiety are fairly mild; however, it will be important to monitor as she matures and seek further veterinary behavior support if concerns arise. There are many treatment options that can be initiated if anxiety persists or worsens.

We also discussed the following criteria for anyone interested in purchasing or adopting Keeper / Nell:

- An adult-only household is recommended, as children may not recognize signs of fear and anxiety and be too provocative and unpredictable for this particular puppy.
- It is recommended that the home be in a quieter neighborhood and be a household that does not have frequently visitors.
- It is imperative that the family is committed to positive reinforcement training in the class environment and at home! Punitive or confrontational techniques will exacerbate anxiety. Look for trainers with KPA or CPDT certification.
- Socialization should be done at pace that is really comfortable for Keeper / Nell. It is better that she have fewer, shorter outings that are super positive and during which she is animated and taking treats the entire time. More frequent or protracted outings during which she is overall "fine" (vacillating between animated, neutral, and moments of retreating) are likely a net negative for her. She will do better with quality over quantity in the socialization department!
- It would be ideal if the family had experience with canine anxiety.
- An easy-going, confident male dog may be helpful for Keeper / Nell.
- It may be also beneficial for the family to locate a Fear Free Certified veterinary practice to care for Keeper's / Nell's health needs.

Thank you for choosing MSU's Veterinary Medical Center and including us in your animal healthcare team. Patients like KEEPER are vital to sustain our teaching mission. If you have any questions, please contact Marie Hopfensperger at 517-353-5420.

Visit us on the web at: <http://cvm.msu.edu/hospital>

Signed by Marie Hopfensperger, on 6/20/2020 at 3:26 PM