



Guide Dogs for the Blind

Canine Evaluation Committee

Information for Raisers

What is the Canine Evaluation Committee (CEC)?

The CEC is a cross-departmental collaborative group that reviews cases where GDB dogs at any stage (puppy raising, formal training, guides, career changes, etc.) display threatening behavior towards people and/or other animals. The committee evaluates behavior and develops behavior modification plans. The goal of the CEC is to build behavior management tools and, where appropriate, determine recommended parameters for an adoptive home that will be the best match for continued success.

Reason for CEC for a GDB Puppy/Dog

Should a puppy/dog in the field display threatening behavior, the CFR immediately contacts one of the Canine Resource Managers (CRMs). Examples of threatening behavior are:

- Resource guarding toward either dogs or people. Resources guarded may be
 - Food
 - Toys/bones
 - Space
 - People
- Threatening behavior toward people. Examples of behavior may include
 - Snarling
 - Growling
 - Lunging with aggressive display
 - Snapping
 - Biting
- Threatening behavior toward dogs
 - Snarling
 - Growling
 - Lunging with aggressive display
 - Snapping
 - Biting

Procedure in the Field

Raisers must report any threatening behavior to their leader as soon as it occurs. Behaviors occur in context; it is very helpful to have a clear record of the situation and who was involved (people and animals). The raiser should describe the situation in as much detail as possible when informing their leader, who will pass the information along to the CFR. If there is uncertainty on whether something constitutes threatening behavior, the raiser should discuss with their leader immediately.

The CFR and CRM will determine if the behavior is serious enough to warrant CEC involvement. Bites that break skin, even accidental, should be reported. Accidental bites do not warrant CEC involvement. Any dog career changed for threatening behavior is reviewed by the CEC.

Dogs that have either bitten and/or displayed threatening behavior may be moved to a leader/other experienced volunteer until the dog can be returned to campus. Often, if a bite has broken skin, local authorities will dictate some kind of home quarantine for 10 days.

On Campus

- Upon arrival at either campus, the dog will be assigned a special handling team. This is to ensure that the dog is only handled by experienced staff who are aware of the dog's history.
- A medical check by veterinary staff is undertaken.
- An assessment is completed, and the results and other paperwork compiled.
- The CFR will be informed when the assessment is completed and will inform the leader.
- The dog is put on a management plan that involves behavior modification, protocols, and training to address specific concerns.
- An initial review by the CEC is undertaken.
- A third-party consultation with a veterinary behaviorist may be scheduled as needed

While the dog progresses through the management plan it may also participate in:

- Community run
- Campus walks
- Relaxing in office with designated handler(s)
- Kennel enrichment

The CFR will update the raiser once per month on the dog's progress. The CEC will discuss the dog at scheduled meetings.

A release review will be conducted by a member of the CEC and the results reported to the committee. Should they agree to release the dog, the CRMs will inform the respective CFR of the parameters of the dog's release. Should the raisers be interested in adopting the dog, or have a placement, it may be necessary for the raisers/potential adopter to submit an application to Dog Placement. It will be reviewed and considered as to whether the placement is suitable under the parameters defined by the CEC.