



### **Animal Welfare Unit - Procedures for Behavioural Assessment of Dogs before Rehoming**

Where dogs to be rehomed have proven difficult to handle, or come from homes where abuse has been prevalent the following should be completed before any further decisions regarding the disposal of the dog should be considered.

- The dog is given time to become used to dog shelter care.
- A full behavioural assessment of the dog is performed by a competent trained professional.
- A full report on the disposition of the dog should be sent to the Animal Welfare Unit with recommendations as to the exact type of rehoming is suitable i.e. family home, children/no children, space etc.
- All decisions should be made under the five domains and with the welfare of the dog to be the main consideration.
- Further time in the Dog Shelter should be considered in order to allow for informed decisions on the future of the dog.
- A decision to euthanise the dog should only be taken in cases where:
  - The dog cannot be rehomed under any circumstances.
  - Where rehoming may children or people at risk.
  - Where all reasonable alternatives have been considered.

Such decisions can only be made where the reports from the Veterinary surgeon and the animal behaviour specialist are in agreement that such action is in the best interests of the dog.

- The final decision rests with the Manager of the Animal Welfare Unit and can only be made when the relevant reports and recommendation have been received.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_