

Risk Assessment Outline

Daniel Q. Estep, Ph.D., CAAB & Suzanne Hetts, Ph.D., CAAB

- I. Why do risk assessments?
 - A. Help owners make decisions about aggressive animals
 - B. Help shelters/rescues decide what animals to adopt to the public
 - C. Help courts decide legal issues surrounding animals

- II. The scientific and rational basis for risk assessment
 - A. Once an animal has injured, the probability of future injuries is increased
 - B. Studies examining risk factors

- III. Factors to consider in assessments
 - A. Animal factors
 - B. Potential victim factors
 - C. Environmental factors
 - D. Owner/family factors

- IV. How to do an assessment
 - A. Behavioral history
 - B. Incidental direct observations
 - C. Formal testing

- V. Client communication – Talking to owners

- VI. Risk assessment in the shelter/rescue setting

- VII. Risk assessment in legal settings