

HESO'S TEMPERAMENT ASSESSMENT
ASSESSOR: KAYLEY PAYLOR – IN STRIDE AZAWAKH & TRAINING

Human interaction:

Heso is very social in an extremely polite manner. He is reasonably forward for a sighthound, but is not overbearing. He was easy with coming into my house even though he doesn't know me well and he is everything you could ask for in this regard.

Even though he was insecure in the new environment, there were no signs of separation anxiety or any anxiety over being left.

Handling:

Heso is compliant and easy with handling, as is true of many Silken Windhounds. There are no improvements that could be made in this regard.

Environment:

Heso showed some levels of uncertainty and insecurity in new locations. He quickly warmed up once introduced to the people and dogs and he came out of his shell immediately. When unsure in a new environment, he tends to stand and watch. He didn't show any tendency to want to bolt. His response was non-confrontational and mild.

When I took him for a walk with another dog, even one he had only recently met, he was comfortable and happy to sniff – lots of tail wagging. When I took him for a walk alone he was much more nervous – looking around uncertainly, no sniffing, and had more tendency to pull. After five minutes, he began to relax, but even by the end of the walk he was less comfortable than when he was walking with another dog.

Drive:

Reasonably low drive. He showed interest in squirrels on our walk and played with toys, but showed no interest in engaging with toys with me. He played with toys with the other dogs, but they were more a prop to enhance play rather than interest in the toy for its own sake.

Dog-Dog Interaction:

Heso was very appropriate with all dogs that he interacted with throughout his assessment. He was respectful of older dogs that did not wish to interact and played with both intact males and females. He was initially slightly hesitant, but still showed signs of wanting to engage immediately. By the end of the assessment with was playing freely and with abandon.

No instances of resource guarding, even when other dogs wanted the toy he was chewing.

Overall Impression:

I have met Heso less often than many of the Cascadia dogs that I have assessed, so my impression is slightly less comprehensive. However, he is a very easy dog to live with, He will happily play with any appropriate playmates and when he is tired he will settle and nap hard. He is easy with people and dogs. New locations and experiences give him a slight level of unease, which he overcomes, but I am unable to tell if this is socialization based or genetic or some

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combination of both. He is extremely social and does take some of his confidence from the dogs around him and he could use some confidence away from other dogs. All in all, he is what a Silken should be – social with appropriate dogs and humans, pack oriented, and easy in the house.