



Zeppelin: What to Expect

Zeppelin is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and needs a special home. Zeppelin is a very sweet, loving, and active dog who is obsessed with playing fetch. He would love to share a pillow in bed and go out on adventures to the beach, hiking in the mountains, or going for runs. He needs to find a home with someone who can continue his training using the techniques we have found successful at OHS. Zeppelin would do best in a home without any small pets and would thrive in a quiet home and not in the hustle and bustle of a busy apartment building. If he sees or hears people walking by the home frequently, he is likely to bark at the sight and sound of them. He could live with another dog, but it will require a pet meet to ensure their behaviors are well matched.

Zeppelin loves people and is very comfortable meeting new people politely, but when he sees other dogs on leash, he gets easily frustrated and emotional and will react by pulling, whining, barking, and jump towards them. We have been successful in curbing this behavior by giving Zeppelin a tennis ball to hold while on walks. Zeppelin gets the most excited whenever he is about to go for a walk or play with his ball/fetch. To calm him and have him focus we have worked on his sitting and waiting for the leash to be clipped on and ignoring him if he demands we play fetch. Zeppelin can become so focused on getting to the play area that he can push and dart through doors or out of cars. We have had success working with him sitting and waiting at doorways before crossing through, but without guidance and accountability he could easily dart out an open door and take off. Secondary doors like a screen door, baby gate, or leashing Zeppelin before the doors to the house or car are opened can help keep him safe.

When hanging out in the office or at home, Zeppelin is very relaxed and calm, choosing to lay at your feet, on his dog bed, or will entertain himself with toys, most likely a ball. If taken out frequently and adhering to a routine, Zeppelin is very well potty trained and will even alert you to needing to go outside. Zeppelin would prefer to hang out with his human companions but does well with other dogs who match his same energy. He has lived with another small dog in a previous home. Meeting up with friends who have dogs would be better suited for a dog like Zeppelin than the uncontrolled setting of the dog park. Zeppelin will chase cats and chickens and would do best in a home where he does not have free access to small animals.

Here is how to help Zeppelin settle in during your first months together:

Use treats and toys to build trust. Maintaining and continuing his training will create a bond and a form of communication between two species who do not understand each other. When Zeppelin is very excited or out on a walk, he sometimes doesn't care about food because he's so stimulated. We've found that using a ball as a focus point and reward has been instrumental in getting him to focus on us during walks. Even if he just has it in his mouth, he tends to relax and focus a bit more.

Be your dog's advocate. It is okay to ask someone to stop or prevent a dog from coming up to say hi to your dog. When you are on a walk, and someone asks if their dog(s) can meet Zeppelin, just explain that he is in training and doesn't want to say hi to other dogs. While Zeppelin is friendly, he does not yet possess the skills to greet other dogs appropriately and frequent meetings on leash can create a lot of frustration.

Practice home alone training. Zeppelin may whine or bark if left home alone for extended periods of time. We have had success leaving him alone for over a few hours in a crate, our office, and real-life room, leaving him with toys to keep busy. Giving him a room or gated space will keep him safe and content when you're away from home.

No dog parks! Playing in controlled settings - like play dates at home with dogs you know - will work better. It is best to go slow with introductions to other dogs. Do not try introducing him to strange dogs on a walk. Miscommunications between dogs can happen in an instant and lead to unpleasant interactions.

If you are having people over, put Zeppelin on leash so he learns to not dart out the front door or jump all over people. Once everyone is sitting down and calm you can take off the leash and allow him to decide if he wants to go say hi to your company. Asking for a sit before petting will help keep four feet on the floor.

Do not take him to busy places where he will have lots of uncontrolled interactions with people/dogs (such as Saturday Market, off-leash dog parks, coffee shops, walks down Hawthorne St., etc.). Zeppelin will need more training before he is comfortable and relaxed in these situations.

Try using **Adaptil (Dog Appeasing Pheromone)** or **Rescue Remedy by Bach Flower Essences**. These products can help dogs settle in new environments by easing the stress associated with change.

Visiting the vet: Unless it is an emergency, give Zeppelin plenty of time to bond with you before taking them to your vet. Start with positive visits just for treats. Vet visits will more than likely be scary but if they already trust you, your presence may help them feel more comfortable.

Patience will come in handy for you. Zeppelin is sensitive and responds best to positive reinforcement and reward-based training. He will need an understanding, calm owner who has the time and desire to work on helping him learn to live in a home. He will pay you back by supplying love and enthusiasm!

We're here to help!

We want Zeppelin to be successful in his new home. We are available to answer questions via phone and email. Call our Pet Behavior Helpline at (503)416-2983 or email Annika at AnnikaH@oregonhumane.org to connect with a trainer. One-on-one consultations are available.

Please keep in touch so we can continue to help you now and in the future. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns – or just to give an update. We love to see photos and hear how our friends are doing!

Thank you for adopting from the Oregon Humane Society. Congratulations on your new dog!

Behavioral Medication for your New Dog

This dog has been prescribed one or more medications to help reduce anxiety and impulsivity during his/her time in the shelter. You may be provided with a supply of this dog's medication(s) along with specific dosing instructions at the time of adoption. We would recommend that you continue giving this medication for at least the first 6 months after adoption to help reduce stress that may be associated with this dog making a smooth transition into your home. It is difficult to predict whether this dog will benefit from treatment over an even longer period of time – this is something that we ask you to discuss with this dog's new veterinarian when you take him/her in for your first exam. When it appears time to stop giving your dog these medications, please contact your veterinarian for an appropriate weaning off protocol and to make sure you have enough medication to allow for a weaning off process.

During this process, please watch for any signs of worsening fear or anxiety. If the dog appears to be getting worse during the weaning off process, contact your veterinarian as longer treatment may be needed.