



Forrester: What to Expect

Forrester is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home! Forrester is a playful young dog! Forrester also enjoys the company of people he is familiar with and loves to go on long sniffing walks. He would not do well in a home with a lot of hustle and bustle. Forrester is very sweet and loving with people he is comfortable with, but he can shy away from strangers coming into the home. A mindful owner who is committed to working on building Forrester's confidence with positive reinforcement-based training will see improvement in this part of his life. Another more confident dog in the home may also further support Forrester's work in building his confidence and having positive social experiences; however, busy dog parks or daycare settings could be overwhelming. While at OHS, he's done very well with controlled and small dog play groups.

While he enjoys the company of his known family and friends, does well out in public, and is generally a very social dog, he will need a mindful owner. Asking people to ignore Forrester when they first enter your home until he's comfortable to approach and using high value treats.

Forrester already has a good foundation of obedience, knows many commands (sit, down, shake, and walks politely on leash); however, he would benefit from taking some training classes with his new owners. He would love to learn new things alongside his people in a training class. Training classes help strengthen the bond between owner and dog by creating clear and precise communication so there are no misunderstandings. You can find more info about our training classes on our website at (<https://www.oregonhumane.org/training/training-at-ohs/>).

Here's how to help Forrester settle in during your first months together:



Use treats to build trust. Maintaining and continuing his training will create a bond and a form of communication between two species who don't understand each other.

Designate a "safe spot" in your home. You can use a crate to confine him to a smaller area where he has access to water, bed, and toys (see picture), or put him behind a baby gate in a safe contained area. When you are unable to supervise him, leave him in his safe spot.

Be his advocate. It's okay to ask someone to stop or prevent a person from coming up to say hi to your dog. Watch his body language and help him out of situations if he appears stressed.

Limit introductions to new people. Take your time to get to know Forrester before introducing him to someone new. He will need to meet a person multiple times before he will feel comfortable with them.

Practice home alone training. In his previous home Forrester was put in a crate when his people would leave, and he would whine or bark for extended periods of time. Outside of the crate he was known to be destructive. We have successfully been crate training him, and while he does sing the song of his husky family at times, he is not incessantly vocal.

If you are having people over, put Forrester on leash so you can have control and he learns to not dart out the front door. Once everyone is sitting down and calm you can allow him to decide if he wants to go say hi to your company. Inform your company how to interact with him safely, if Forrester is nervous do not let visitors loom over him or reach out to touch him.

Wait take him to busy places where he will have lots of uncontrolled interactions with people/dogs (such as popular hiking trails, coffee shops, walks down Hawthorne St., open air markets, etc.) until he has the chance to build a trusting relationship with you.

Forrester needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Forrester loves to go for runs, play with toys, and go for walks. Giving him a healthy outlet for some of his energy will help him settle during calm hours at home.

Skip the dog park! Forrester prefers to play with small groups of known dogs. Give him at least 3 weeks to bond before introducing him to family and friends' dogs.

Visiting the Vet: Start with positive visits just for treats. Vet visits will more than likely be scary, but if your dog already trusts you, your presence may help them feel more comfortable.

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

We're here to help!

We want Forrester to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Forrester, we can also set up a free one-on-one consultation.

Please keep in touch so we can continue to help you now and in the future. Reach out if you have 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!