



## Grandpa 281973: What to Expect

**Grandpa is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home.** Don't let the name fool you, Grandpa is an active young dog who is ready to be someone's adventure buddy! He is a big, squishy sweetheart who wants nothing more than to melt into your arms after a nice long walk. His overbite just adds to the charm, and he loves to give awkward smooches that bump you with his nose.

Grandpa had a bumpy start to life; he was a backyard dog who was found as a stray with a collar embedded in his neck and entropion eyelids. He's since had surgery to correct both these issues. Growing up this way was counterintuitive for Grandpa's socialization, and as a result, he has missed out on having positive experiences with the world around him. Grandpa has a hard time settling, being alone, and having people leave him, which developed into separation anxiety. We've had success with providing Grandpa enrichment, training, and increasing his exercise needs paired with medication, to help soothe his anxiety. Future adopters will need to be ready to continue this plan to help Grandpa be successful long term. We don't think he will do well in an apartment setting due to his barking, whining, and behavior when experiencing a separation anxiety episode.

Grandpa will also need help learning how to calmly watch the world around him. He's easily excited about new people/dogs, new environments, and will bounce around erratically with enthusiasm on leash. On occasion, he's also redirected that excitement back at his handlers, excitedly jumping up towards them. Off leash, Grandpa's over exuberance to play tends to be overwhelming for most dogs. He is overtly friendly without a clue on what other dogs are trying to communicate, which can leave many dogs overwhelmed and Grandpa not picking up on obvious communication signals. This isn't fair to other dogs, even if Grandpa has the best intentions, so Grandpa will need continued training in dog interactions. We've been successful engaging with Grandpa using treats and praise for remaining calm during these heightened moments of excitement. Grandpa loves to learn, and it has been a key component in helping him find productive outlets for his nerves and building trust in us. The ideal home will need to be someone that's ready for a lot of adventures and snuggle time. His future home will also need to be free of any cats or small animals as he will chase them.

### **Here's how to help Grandpa settle in during your first months together:**

**Use routine to get Grandpa comfortable in their new home.** It will take a couple weeks for Grandpa to feel comfortable in their new home and with you. Having a predictable schedule will help them adjust to their new home.

**Use treats and toys to build trust.** Maintaining and continuing Grandpa's training will create a bond and a form of communication between two species who don't understand each other. The more positive experiences Grandpa has with his owners, the more valuable you will become in high distracting situations

**Designate a "safe spot" in your home.** You can use a crate or taller baby gates to confine them to a smaller area where they have access to water, bed, and toys. When you are unable to supervise the dog, leave them in their safe spot. Slowly work toward leaving them alone, unsecured, once they've had the chance to settle into your home and you know with certainty, they will be comfortable.

**If you're having people over, put Grandpa on leash so they learn to not dart out the front door or jump all over people.** Once everyone is sitting down and calm you can drop the leash and allow your dog to decide if they want to go say hi to your guests. Ensure your guests ask Grandpa to sit before being pet so they're rewarded for keeping 4 feet on the floor.

**Grandpa needs daily exercise to reduce stress.** Grandpa loves to go for runs, walks, play fetch, and chase a flirt pole. Giving your dog a healthy outlet for some of their energy will help them settle during calm hours at home.

**Practice crate training.** Start by feeding meals in a wire crate and work your way up from there. It will be in your best interest to **slowly** increase time in the crate, so they view it as a safe, comfortable spot. When you cannot monitor your dog in the home, allow them some time to settle and relax in the crate.

**Take a training class.** Grandpa would benefit from taking some training classes with their new owners and would love to learn more alongside their family 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/>).

**Skip the dog park.** Don't take Grandpa to busy places where they will have lots of uncontrolled interactions with people or other dogs (such as Saturday Market, dog parks, coffee shops, etc.). Taking leashed hikes, playing in the backyard, or on play dates with known dogs will help Grandpa grow into an understanding and calm dog that will feel more comfortable adjusting to his new world.

**Work daily on having Grandpa settle on a mat** and gently praise them for lying down. If they get up to pace, call them back and use a treat to lure them into a down again. If Grandpa is on leash, you can hold them with approximately 4 feet of leash and wait until they offer a settle by lying down. Softly praise and treat when they do this.

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

**Visiting the Vet:** Unless it is an emergency, give your dog plenty of time to bond to you before taking them to your vet. Grandpa does very well at the vet, they handle meeting new being well. The vet can still be a scary place. Bringing tasty treats like cheese and/or hot dogs can help make the experience more pleasant.

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.

#### **Behavioral Medication for your new dog**

This dog has been prescribed one or more medications to help reduce anxiety and impulsivity during their 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. 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.

### **We're here to help!**

We want Grandpa to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Grandpa, we can also set up a free one-on-one consultation. For questions or to schedule an appointment, contact Annika at **(503) 802-6713** or [annikah@oregonhumane.org](mailto:annikah@oregonhumane.org).

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!