



## Oliver: What to Expect

**Oliver is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home.** Oliver can be both a couch potato and your best adventure buddy! He loves people and is always up to go on outdoor adventures with his friends. Whether it's playing with toys in the yard, a walk around the neighborhood, or even a run; Oliver is ready! And after his adventures, once his doggie needs are met, Oliver makes a wonderful cuddle buddy, often found sprawled on his back and snoring, sleeping through the loudest noises! Oliver needs to find a dog experienced home without young/small children. He's looking for a patient person(s) who has the time and desire to continue working on setting boundaries and training using the same positive reinforcement techniques we use at OHS. Oliver can become frustrated at the sight of other dogs, pulling, jumping, and barking because he can't run up to say hello. We have been successful training "leave it" while on walks, so Oliver can keep his excitement to himself, but will need continued help to be successful long term. Oliver has shown he can be a great play partner with dogs who exhibit his same energy and play style and would do best playing with known dogs in a controlled environment like a back yard.

Because when Oliver gets excited, he likes to jump up on humans, and if overstimulated more he will grab onto loose fitting clothes, the leash, or purses/bags, he would do best in a home that will continue his training and management plans. During two of these overstimulated events at OHS, when off leash in a yard mid zoomie run, Oliver jumped up at his handler trying to grab their clothes and his teeth made contact on their arm breaking skin. We've been very successful using positive training techniques, asking Oliver to sit and wait to help him in his overexcited state. Meeting his exercise and enrichment needs helps tremendously when it comes to managing his overexcited energy as it gives him a healthy outlet.

Oliver has darted out doors on two occasions and taken this new freedom to take off running, thinking it a game of tag, and not returning when called. It is important for his safety that his new owners hold tight to his leash, remember to lock gates/doors, and don't let Oliver off leash in unsecured areas. We have been successful in teaching Oliver to Sit + Wait at doorways so he knows not to rush out.

When Oliver catches sight of a light reflection, such as light reflected off a watch, or the moving shadow of a bird, his first instinct is to chase it. This behavior is unhealthy and can become obsessive and neurotic, causing him to "zone-out" and difficult to bring back to a calm state. We have made strides in preventing the rehearsal of this behavior and have him prescribed a behavior medication to alleviate the intense urge to fixate. It will be in his best interest if his new owners can continue to help him overcome this fixation with management, training, and medication.

### **Here's how to help Oliver 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 don't understand each other. The more positive experiences Oliver 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 him to a smaller area where he has access to water, bed, and toys. When you are unable to supervise him, leave him in his safe spot. Slowly work towards leaving him alone unsecured once he's had the chance to settle into your home and you know with certainty, he will be comfortable.

**If you're having people over, put Oliver 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 drop the leash and allow him to decide if he wants to go say hi to your company, ensure your guests ask him to sit before being pet so he's rewarded for keeping 4 feet on the floor.

**Be his advocate.** It's okay to ask someone to stop or prevent a person from letting their dog come up to say hi to your dog. Watch his body language and help him out of situations if he appears stressed (barking, pulling, jumping). Explain that Oliver is learning to ignore dogs, as he gets overtly excited at the sight of them. Oliver has been known to bark and pull toward other dogs when on a walk and will need continued practice on learning to ignore other dogs, but he gets better every day.

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

**Practice "Leave it."** Oliver may bark and lunge if he sees dogs when he's on a walk. When he sees dogs, **before** he starts barking, say "leave it." When he turns to look at you, reward with praise and a treat and walk away from the trigger. Distance is calming.

**Skip the dog park.** Don't take him to busy places where he will have lots of uncontrolled interactions with people or other dogs (such as Saturday Market, dog parks, coffee shops, etc.). Oliver would do best playing with other known dogs in controlled environments like a backyard.

**Visiting the Vet:** Unless it's an emergency, give your dog plenty of time to bond to you before taking them to your 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.

**Patience will come in handy for you.** Oliver is a sensitive dog who is easy like a Sunday morning and responds best to positive reinforcement and reward-based training. He needs an understanding, calm owner who has the time and motivation to want to work with him. He will pay you back by supplying you with love and enthusiasm!

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

We want Oliver to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Oliver, 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!

### **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. 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.