



Rhodie 282089: What to Expect

Rhodie is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Rhodie is a sweet and silly puppy that loves to get lots of affection and attention from everyone he meets. He loves playing with dogs and toys and will find a way to put a smile on your face with his goofy personality. Prior to Rhodie coming to OHS, he was an outside dog with his siblings. Growing up isolated, Rhodie's whole world was confined to this yard, which greatly impacted his socialization. The unknown can be intimidating and even scary for Rhodie, and he can respond with apprehension and avoidance to new, scary experiences. Using positive reinforcement-based training methods, we've been able to help foster new, positive experiences for Rhodie, and use treats, praise, and toys to help change his uncertainty to enjoyment. Rhodie's future adopters will need to continue using reward-based training to further give Rhodie positive experiences and expand his world. Rhodie is a very smart boy, he picks up on training quickly and is very motivated to learn!

Being an outside dog for the first six months of his life, living indoors and potty training are very new concepts for him. Rhodie will have accidents indoors if left unattended, simply because he doesn't fully understand that we expect him to potty outside. We've had success with Rhodie's potty training by being proactive with him; keeping a close eye on him, taking him out frequently, and rewarding him with high value treats when he does potty outside. Future adopters will need to have the time and patience to work with Rhodie's potty training while he's transitioning to life in their home.

In his previous home, it was noted that Rhodie would fight with his brothers. Rhodie was living in a crowded area with multiple dogs and was in constant competition for resources like food, water, and shelter. During his time in the BMod program, we've tested Rhodie with other friendly dogs. He was more than happy to play with a confident dog but found a rowdy dog overwhelming. Adopters will need to advocate for Rhodie in social situations and set him up for success the best they can; this would mean holding off on uncontrolled social situations, like the dog park, and opting for smaller social outings, like a playdate with a known, friendly dog.

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

Be your dog's 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 their body language and help your dog out of situations if they appear stressed.

Use routine to get Rhodie comfortable in their new home. It will take a couple weeks for Rhodie 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 Rhodie's training will create a bond and a form of communication between two species who don't understand each other. The more positive experiences Rhodie has with his owners, the more valuable you will become in high distracting situations

Patience will come in handy for you. Rhodie 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. Rhodie will pay you back by supplying love and enthusiasm!

If you're having people over, put Rhodie 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 Rhodie to sit before being pet so they're rewarded for keeping 4 feet on the floor.

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. Rhodie 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/>).

Don't take Rhodie to busy places where they will have lots of uncontrolled interactions with people/dogs (such as Saturday Market, off-leash dog parks, coffee shops, walks down Hawthorne St., Home Depot, etc.). Rhodie is still finding his footing in the human world, and we don't want to rush him into anything he isn't ready for.

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.

We're here to help!

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

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!