



## Salami 283013: What to Expect

**Salami is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home.** Salami is shy but spunky little guy! Once he warms up, he enjoys playing with toys, going for leisurely walks, and playing with his dog friends! He spent the first several years of his life living in a home with 54 other dogs. Coming from this background, Salami missed a lot of his key socialization, had limited interactions with people, and had never learned to walk on a leash. He is still learning what it means to be a pet and how to navigate the world. New places, people, dogs, and experiences will be overwhelming for him, and he's going to need extra help and support as he learns how to navigate in this big new world. Once comfortable, he will "awoo" with happiness, get bounding zoomies, and his little firecracker personality will leave you belly laughing!

During Salami's time at OHS, he has slowly started to trust people, often taking treats from their hands. He has learned how to walk on a leash, and that he really enjoys playing with other dogs. Salami has learned a lot, but there are still a lot of things in the world that he has yet to experience. New dogs, people, walking on leash, grooming, these things that we don't typically consider "scary" can be really intimidating and frightening for such an under socialized dog. When Salami is scared, he will often try to run away and hide, and if pushed further he may growl and snap. We've been successful pairing things that Salami might find scary with treats, to try to make his new experiences a positive one. Future adopters will need to be ready to continue working using the same positive reinforcement-based training with Salami to set him up for success in their home and the world!

Loud noises and sudden/fast movements can be scary for Salami, and he doesn't like being touched or picked up. He will do best in a quiet, low traffic home without young children. Since dogs are very familiar and comforting to Salami, he will do best in a home with another confident, playful dog to help boost his confidence while he adjusts to his new life. Salami will also need your help (and patience!) with continued potty training. As a male dog, he likes to mark while out on walks, in new spaces, and it's likely that he will go to the bathroom inside the house if not given frequent access to appropriate potty areas. Keeping him on a routine and schedule will help him be successful with potty training, but be prepared for accidents, especially at first. Time and patience are key when helping Salami learn, but he will repay you with lots of enthusiasm and joy!

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

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

**Take Salami outside on leash.** Even if you have a fenced yard, please do not let Salami out alone. They are so small, that they could easily hide under your deck or a bush - or slip through a gap in your fence! Salami does like to go for walks and go outside to potty but needs some time to figure out the routine before being trusted off leash.

**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. Explain that Salami is not comfortable with people and doesn't enjoy meeting strangers while on their walk. Tossing a treat on the ground is more effective for your dog to make positive associations with new people. Distance is calming.

**Let them drag a leash attached to their collar** for the first week or two inside and outside the home. Fast movements are startling, and it will take time for them to be okay with you approaching and removing the leash. If you go slow at the beginning, you'll build a trusting relationship. Treats always help!

**Allow for time to build trust.** Always let Salami decide if they want to come closer to you. Don't force interactions. As they grow more comfortable, you will see Salami decide that they enjoy spending time with you by coming closer for pets, jumping next to you on the couch, and following your resident dog around.

**Use an exercise pen** to confine Salami to a small area when you are not home or able to supervise them (see picture). Give them a bed, water, favorite toy, and a potty pad. This "safe spot" will also be a great place to put them when you have visitors to your home, so they don't have to worry about interacting with everyone if they're not comfortable.

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



*Salami's "safe spot" when no one is home.*

We expect that Salami will be overwhelmed by everything they encounter at first. During the critical first months in a new home, their safety will depend on your good judgment and forethought. **A frightened dog will look for any occasion to bolt when startled: out of vehicles, out the front door, or slipping out of the leash. Keep a very tight grip of that leash!**

**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.

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