



## Loulou 281472: What to Expect

**Loulou is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home.** Loulou is an incredibly smart, loving, and active dog! There's a lot of love in Loulou's heart; she adores all toys, loves playing with her dog friends, likes to play with water (loves to chomp at the hose, roll around in a small pool, and runs gleefully through a sprinkler), and she really enjoys spending time with her human friends! Loulou's love often turns into excitement, and when excited, Loulou likes to jump up on her humans, and if overstimulated more will grab onto loose fitting clothes, the leash, or purses/bags. In a previous home, during these overexcited moments, Loulou did break skin on her owner's hand with her teeth. During her time at OHS, we've been successful using positive reinforcement techniques, asking her to sit and wait for leashing and before throwing toys in the yard.

Loulou is an active young dog who would make an excellent running and/or adventure partner! Giving her an outlet for her energy like playing fetch in the yard, going for a run or hike, or playing with known dog friends, will all help Loulou be successful in the home. If her energy and exercise needs are not met, she will happily find other ways to entertain herself, like chewing on personal items in the home. During Loulou's time at OHS, we've been successful with providing Loulou with an assortment of appropriate toys and crating her to help her learn to relax. "Puppy proofing" your house is a great way to help manage a curious young dog as she learns what are her toys and what are not.

Loulou likes to play and is very social with other dogs; however, playing with known dogs in controlled settings, like friend or family dogs in your back yard, will work best for Loulou. She is a very intelligent dog who loves to learn! But it will take time and patience to build up a relationship with her before she could be trusted off-leash in uncontrolled settings like dog parks or on hiking trails.

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

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

**Loulou needs daily exercise to reduce stress.** Loulou 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.

**Work on having Loulou 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 Loulou 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.

**Walk Loulou on an appropriate walking tool.** We have been using a special head halter, called a transitional leash, to help guide Loulou to walk nicely on leash with little to no pulling. When Loulou sees other dogs on walks, they become incredibly excited and then frustrated that they cannot run up to say hello and play, causing them to jump, pull, whine, bark, and sometimes growl. It will be important to never let Loulou run up to other dogs on leash as that can reinforce their frustrations.

**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.

**"Puppy proof" your home and practice tether training** to prevent them from getting into puppy/adolescent trouble. When home have Loulou on leash, attached to you or tethered to a large piece of furniture as you go about your daily routine. This will help with potty training, bonding, and creating boundaries within the home. Let Loulou drag the leash around the house or yard from time to time to simulate "freedom", but do not let them off leash until they can 100% be

trusted not to get into things they shouldn't. This could take up to a few weeks. Crate Loulou when you cannot watch them. This will ensure their puppy curiosity doesn't get them into any trouble. You will have long lasting success if you follow this method.

**Skip the dog park.** Don't take Loulou 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 to the river, playing in the backyard, or to places not frequented by many other dogs will allow for exercise, but keep Loulou calm and engaged with you.

**Take a training class.** Loulou 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/>).

**Visiting the Vet:** Unless it is an emergency, give your dog plenty of time to bond to you before taking them to your vet. Loulou 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 Loulou to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Loulou, 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!