



Biji 263690: What to Expect

Biji is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Biji was found at a temple in Cambodia when he was 6 weeks old with his sister and then brought to the U.S. at 6 months old. His full name is Biji Cazimi which translates to “little seed in the heart.” Biji was surrendered to OHS due to a lifestyle change and since his time at OHS we’ve gotten to know who Biji is and what he needs to succeed in his new home. Biji is a delightful little dog who enjoys the company of his human friends, going for sniffy walks, and playing with other dogs. Biji is very comfortable and neutral around other dogs no matter their size or temperament occasionally enjoying a game of chase, and he does not bark or pull up to other dogs when out on a walk. The perfect companion for a walk on leash around the neighborhood or out in nature. Biji can be nervous with new people, especially men or if they bend over him and reach out, or come into his space and don’t respect his obvious signs of discomfort (avoiding hands, barking, freezing, hard stare). He is the most comfortable when people ignore him and then he will approach to sniff then allow pets, play, or treats when he’s comfortable. You’ll find he quickly jumps up next to you for attention if you play hard to get. He would not do well in a home with a family who wants to grab him, pick him up, and/or allows strangers to reach out to him while on walks. Biji has a history of getting along well with children, but always remember to monitor children with a new dog to ensure respect is being given in all directions. It can take several months before a dog is comfortable in a new home and with a new family.

Biji does have some anxiety he will need help working through in his new home. While he can be left home alone with little issue, his anxiety tends to present itself in pacing, an inability to settle, panting, and sometimes barking/howling. This is often in an act of trying to get attention from the humans that are around him, to engage in play or go for a walk. We’ve been successful completely ignoring Biji or giving him some food enrichment to occupy his time during one of these episodes. He is an active dog and will need consistent and daily outlets for his energy to help him settle best in his new home. He does have a positive history of attending doggie daycare as an outlet for energy when the owner could not exercise him appropriately. Biji will need time and grace when adjusting to his new home before he settles in and trusts his new owners. This could take a few weeks up to a couple of months.

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

Here’s how to help Biji settle in during your first months together:

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.

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 Biji is not comfortable with strange 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 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 Biji decide if they want to come closer to you. Don't force interactions. As they grow more comfortable, you will see Biji decide that they enjoy spending time with you by coming closer for pets, jumping next to you on the couch, and following you around.

Supervise your dog outside. Even if you have a fenced yard, please do not let Biji out alone. When Biji is uncomfortable, he has attempted to jump up fences and will need to be supervised outside in a fenced yard until he feels at home. Long walks will help relieve some nervous energy of moving into a new home and routine.

Limit introductions to new people. Take your time to get to know Biji before introducing them to someone new. They may need to meet a new person multiple times before feeling comfortable with strangers. Treats and allowing Biji to approach as they feel comfortable will be best. New people should just completely ignore Biji at first – playing hard to get is the way to their heart.

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

Biji needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Biji loves to go for runs, walks, play fetch, and play with other dogs. Giving your dog a healthy outlet for some of their energy will help them settle during calm hours at home.

Work on having Biji 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 Biji 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.

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.

We're here to help!

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

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.