



Statler 291784: What to Expect

Statler is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Statler is a shy and reserved but happy little dog. When comfortable he loves to run around with his dog friends, play with toys, and go on a Sniffari. Prior to coming to OHS, Statler was living in a home with 54 other small dogs where he had little to no interaction with people. During his time at OHS he has been learning how to take treats from people's hands, how to walk on a leash, and be accepting of handling for grooming. While Statler has made great progress in these areas, when nervous or uncomfortable he will revert to his most basic fearful response; of hiding, running away from, hiding from people, and if cornered and grabbed will attempt to bite to protect himself. He will need patient owners and a calm environment to be allowed the grace to grow comfortable living alongside people in a pet home. It could take months or even years for Statler to be comfortable acting as "pet dog," if he ever gets comfortable at all. Statler loves playing with other small dogs and we feel he would do best in a home with another confident small(er) dog to help him continue to come out of his shell. Having a doggie role model who enjoys being pet can take the social pressure off Statler. He would not do well in a home with a family who would try and pick up, grab, or corner him in an attempt to get him comfortable with people. Playing hard to get and ignoring Statler, allowing him to approach at his own pace, would be the best route to win him over. Because of this we do not think he will do well in a home with children who could unintentionally create an environment that would be uncomfortable for Statler.

Statler is a breed of dog that will need consistent grooming in order to prevent matting. Because Statler is uncomfortable with handling or petting at this stage, keeping his coat short will be the best option to prevent any uncomfortable mats or tangling. Creating a relationship with a trusted fear free groomer who can help educate owners and help maintain a short coat will lead to a long healthy comfortable life.

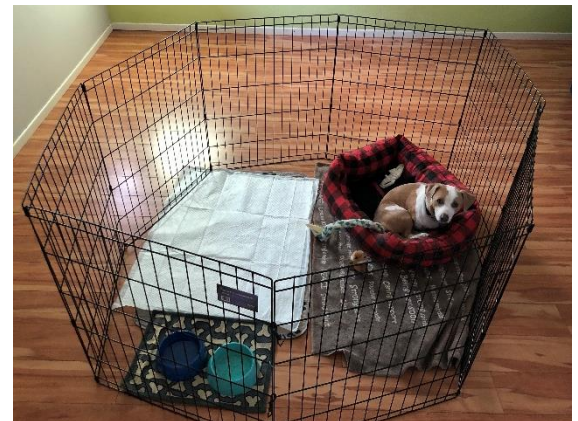
We expect that Statler will be overwhelmed by everything they encounter at first. During the critical first months in a new home, their safety will depend on your good judgment and forethought. **A frightened dog will look for any occasion to bolt when startled: out of vehicles, out the front door, or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

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

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

Use an exercise pen to confine Statler 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. Statler 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. Statler will pay you back by supplying love and enthusiasm!



Statler's "safe spot" when no one is home.

Use routine to get Statler comfortable in their new home. It will take a couple weeks for Statler to feel comfortable in their new home and with you. Having a predictable schedule will help them adjust to their new home.

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 Statler 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 Statler decide if they want to come closer to you. Don't force interactions. As they grow more comfortable, you will see Statler 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.

Supervise your dog outside. Even if you have a fenced yard, please do not let Statler out alone. They are small and could easily hide under your deck or a bush - or slip through a gap in your fence! They do like to go for short walks and go outside to potty, but need some time to build confidence to go on longer excursions in even the quietest of neighborhoods.

Don't take Statler 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.).

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