



Franklin 214515: What to Expect

Franklin is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Franklin is an incredibly sweet **deaf dog** who enjoys leisurely sniffy walks, playing with toys, getting scratches, and curling up on a dog bed for a nap in the afternoon sun! Franklin loves hanging out with his friends both canine and human, so much so that he sometimes experiences some FOMO when left out and will bark, when alone. Franklin will also bark, to let his humans know when he needs to go outside to potty, but being deaf, he doesn't know the volume level of his bark. We've been successful taking Franklin with us to our offices, rewarding him for calm, relaxed behavior, and he's quickly learning to relax in a new space when near his people.

Since Franklin is deaf, he often finds it startling when people approach or grab him unexpectedly around especially around his neck, especially if he is sleeping or distracted. In a previous home, Franklin lived with elderly owners, and when one had a fall, they used Franklin to help lift themselves back up by grabbing on to his collar. Their grip on Franklin's collar was restrictive to his airway and his ability to breath effectively choking him, this lasted for a few minutes, and his attempts to move were ignored which resulted in Franklin snapping at the owner to break free. The owner was aware they were harming him but thought they could stand before any damage was done. This was a sudden bite and release to the elderly person's hand, breaking skin. Prior to this incident there were no known incidents of biting from Franklin towards dogs or people.

During Franklin's time at OHS, we've seen that Franklin is a very social guy and comfortable with being handled all over his body for exams, vaccinations, and nail trims without issue. He will lean in for pets for friends and strangers when out for walks. When sleeping to reduce startling him and build trust, we like to gently tap his bed with our foot or tug on the blanket he's sleeping on, to calmly wake him up. We've also been successful introducing him to hand signals for "good", "sit", "down", and "wait". Franklin will need a patient owner who can dedicate time to continuing his training using the same positive reinforcement techniques we use here at OHS.

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

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

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. Don't let strangers or dogs approach Franklin without him being aware of their presence, so he can continue to trust his handlers and community members.

Skip the dog park. Wait to take Franklin 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 low traffic places will allow for exercise, but encourage Franklin to bond with you before being thrust into a potentially chaotic environment.

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

Take Franklin outside on leash. Even if you have a fenced yard, please do not let Franklin out alone. He cannot hear you and could easily hide under your deck or a bush - or slip through a gap in your fence! Deaf dogs cannot hear an approaching car, or their name being called. Always have your dog leashed when you're in an unfenced area.

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

Franklin needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Franklin 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.

Visiting the Vet: Unless it is an emergency, give your dog plenty of time to bond to you before taking them to your vet. Franklin 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.

We're here to help!

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