



## Stanley 331197: What to Expect

**Stanley is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home.** Stanley is a sweet and reserved little dog who would love nothing more than a warm lap and a calm home to call forever. He came into the shelter network as a stray, so his history is a mystery. During his time at OHS we've observed when overwhelmed he can become very nervous and shut down, if pressed for interactions when he's not ready he will evade, growl, bark, and snap if cornered and pressed further. When given time Stanley becomes a little love bug who wants to crawl into your lap and follow you around. When comfortable Stanley is an affectionate, curious, and a playful dog who would thrive in a low traffic calm home and neighborhood away from the hustle and bustle of a busy road. Due to his shy demeanor we think he would do best in a home with older dog savvy kids, as the fast and unpredictable movements of small children will frighten him.

Stanley has met several dogs during his time at OHS and he definitely perks up when another confident and social dog companion is around, no matter their size. Stanley is not immediately a very playful dog when it comes to friendship with other dogs, but he does follow the lead of any helper dog when present. We've used the presence of a helper dog to encourage Stanley to walk on leash, understand people are positive, and to explore new spaces. We think Stanley would prefer to live in a home with a resident dog, but it is not a requirement. A pet meet is required before adoption. His new family will need to understand that Stanley likes to take things slow and at his pace. If pressured or pushed he will resort to creating space the only way he knows how, by running away or if cornered using his teeth. A patient family will find Stanley to be an affectionate companion who wants to spend time alongside you, in your lap, or playing. We expect that Stanley 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!**

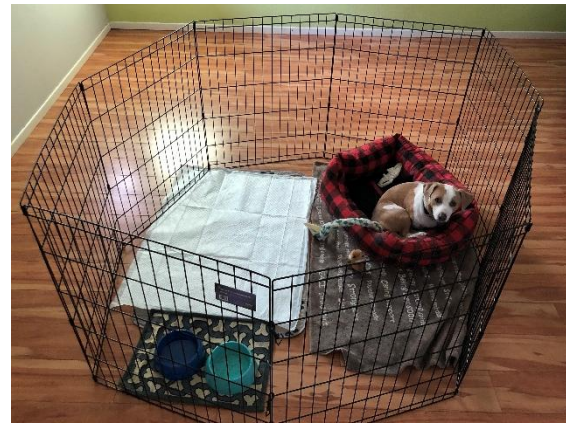
### Here's how to help Stanley settle in during your first months together:

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

**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 Stanley 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!



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

**Allow for time to build trust.** Always let Stanley decide if they want to come closer to you. Don't force interactions. As they grow more comfortable, you will see Stanley 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 Stanley 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.

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

**Don't take Stanley 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 Stanley to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Stanley, we can also set up a free one-on-one consultation. For questions or to schedule an appointment, contact us at **(503) 285-1145** or [BMODTrainers@oregonhumane.org](mailto:BMODTrainers@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!