



Twix 334771: What to Expect

Twix is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Twix is an affectionate, playful, and curious small young dog. He loves to play with toys, go for walks, and meet new people. A social butterfly who loves to be around people and certain to make friends everywhere he goes. He has a positive history with kids as young as 1 and 3 years old. Twix has some separation anxiety as he loves to be around people and when left home alone, he can whine, bark, howl, and at times scratch at doors or walls. Twix would benefit from a family who is home frequently, can take him out for appropriate exercise, and continue his training so he can be comfortable when home alone. Despite being a small dog he has successfully jumped over baby gates, chewed through mesh crates, and pushed down some poorly reinforced barriers. He would love nothing more than to be your go everywhere, do everything kind of dog.

Twix has been successful playing with dogs of various sizes and taking trips to the dog park and enjoyed his encounters. On two occasions, Twix has had conflicting interactions with dogs, which have led to a scuffle and bites to the other dogs that did not need medical attention. The triggers to these interactions are unknown, and it's possible to happen when Twix is highly aroused, overwhelmed, or feeling threatened. Due to this conflicting behavior, a pet meet is required, and Twix is not a candidate for the uncontrolled settings of a dog park or doggie daycare. He would do best in controlled settings with known dogs like in a securely fenced in backyard or SniffSpot.

Twix has a high prey drive towards small animals like cats, rabbits, birds, and the like. He would do best in a home without small animals and owners will need to keep a tight grip on the leash when out for walks. He is a great leash walker and does not pull unless he sees a small animal and the chase is on. He can be successfully redirect by walking away from the trigger and redirecting with treats.

Here's how to help Twix 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.

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

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

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

Twix needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Twix loves to go for long 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 Twix settle on a mat, dog bed, or cot 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 Twix 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.

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 Twix 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 Twix 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 Twix 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.

Take a training class. Twix 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/>).

Skip the dog park. Don’t take Twix 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 Twix calm and engaged with you as they bond over the first few months in your 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. Twix does very well at the vet, they handle meeting new people 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 Twix to be successful in your home. We’re available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Twix, 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.

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!