



## Louie 206788: What to Expect

**Louie is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home.** Louie is a super sweet, older lad, looking for his retirement home. He enjoys snuggling with his people on the couch, laps, receiving gentle pets, basking in sunspots, and causal strolls. Louie can be nervous at first, such as when meeting someone new, but with time & patience, he warms up and wants nothing more than to be your best friend. Louie does best when you allow him to greet at his pace and comfort level, forcing interactions before he's ready can lead to him attempting to create space by running away, growling, or even snapping if pressed further. When comfortable Louie will allow petting, gentle handling, and being picked up. Due to his nervousness with strangers and handling sensitivity, Louie can be very overwhelmed in a veterinary environment. It will be important that his future family communicate with their veterinary office to find the best low stress avenues for vet checks, such as visiting Fear Free clinics.

In his previous home, Louie had a human sibling born into the home and he couldn't handle the sudden unpredictable fast movements and loud noises. When the baby would grab at Louie, he would try to create space by moving away, but if he felt trapped, he would growl and snap. His family decided he deserved a calm and quiet home with no children, frequent visitors, or other pets. While Louie lived with a dog previously, his family felt he would do best as the only pet since he wasn't comfortable and accepting of new dogs into his life. He has never been tested around cats.

Louie is very sweet and would love nothing more than to be your one and only pet companion. A low traffic home in a quiet area, away from the hustle and bustle of a busy neighborhood like downtown or heavily trafficked roads will help him ease into his new life. He will make a great couch buddy on those rainy PNW days or a perfect little garden helper during the beautiful sunshine days.

### **Here's how to help Louie 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 Louie is not comfortable with people and doesn't enjoy meeting strangers while on their walk.

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

**Skip the dog park.** Don't take Louie 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.). Louie has shown us they don't have an interest in being around other dogs/people.

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

We expect that Louie 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!**

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