



Paddy 337885: What to Expect

Paddy is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Paddy is a super sweet doodle who loves going for causal walks, snuggling with his people on the couch, and playing with his dog friends in the yard. Paddy came to OHS through our Second Chance transfer program, so his history is a mystery. Upon arrival at the shelter we observed that Paddy can be a nervous guy, especially when meeting and experiencing something new. When nervous or uncomfortable, Paddy might move away from what frightens him or boof and bark at new people. But with time and patience (and some delicious cookies) he's sure to blossom into your best pal! During his time with OHS we've discovered he will enjoys the company of other dogs and is very well socialized with dogs of various size and temperament. He think he would do well in a home with another dog sibling he can learn and gain confidence from. He would love to take leisurely walks in quiet neighborhoods or trails, have scheduled playdates with known dogs, and/or romp around with a doggie sibling. He is untested with cats.

When uncomfortable Paddy can become distrustful and avoid interactions with people, attempting to flee. If cornered, he will bark in an attempt to create space. We expect that Paddy 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!** If Paddy gets loose, it will be important not to chase him but find a dog he can approach and follow back into a safe location like a fenced in yard. Due to his nervous and shy disposition, uncontrolled environments with a lot hustle and bustle are sure to keep him in a frightened state. He would do best in a quiet neighborhood away from busy neighborhoods like downtown or near high traffic streets.

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

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

Paddy needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Paddy 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.

Work on having Paddy 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 Paddy 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.

When you have people over, **it's okay to put Paddy in another room.** If you'd like Paddy to meet a guest, put them on a leash and give them time to adjust before allowing your guest to pet. Let it be Paddy's choice to go to them for pets or hang back and watch. Crowding Paddy or forcing them to interact can make fearful behavior worse.

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

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 Paddy 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 Paddy 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 Paddy 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. Paddy 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/>).

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