



Boots 336943: What to Expect

Boots is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Boots is a fun loving, bouncy, adventurous little guy with lots of zest for life! He has a big personality and would make a great companion for someone looking for an active dog in a compact package. Boots came to OHS from another shelter after being found as a stray, so much of his history is unknown. He was previously adopted from OHS and returned after being too rowdy with the resident dog and displaying resource guarding in the home towards people. Boots will need a patient person who's able and willing to advocate for his space and continue his training with the same positive reinforcement-based methods we've been successful with here at the Oregon Humane Society!

Boots bonds very quickly to his people and wants to always be around them and a part of the action. However, this intense love for his people coupled with his own insecurity leads him to resource guard people he likes. This can manifest as growling, barking, showing teeth, snapping, and chasing people or dogs away from whoever he's guarding. He will need help learning how to navigate these situations, and someone that's willing to guide him towards those better choices. Management, such as putting Boots away in another room when guests start to come over and removing yourself from the situation if he does begin to guard you can be very helpful for Boots. He will need continued support, management, and training to feel comfortable in these situations! Because of this resource guarding of people, Boots will need to be the only pet in the home. He's VERY active and loves to train, play, and would love to be someone's one and only!

During his time at OHS, we've tried introducing Boots to a variety of dogs. Boots likely was not socialized around dogs during his key socialization period and does not understand how to appropriately interact or play. He will bark at, and run up to other dogs, even if they are giving him signals to back off, which can be interpreted as rude and lead to misunderstandings or even scuffles between dogs. If the other dog is avoidant or attempting to diffuse the situation, Boots will continue to push interactions, barking, and attempting biting at dogs to solicit attention. Because of this, Boots is not a candidate for uncontrolled settings like dog parks or doggie daycares and will need to be the only pet in the home.

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

Take Boots outside on leash. Even if you have a fenced yard, please do not let Boots out alone. They are so small, that they could easily hide under your deck or a bush - or slip through a gap in your fence! Boots does like to go for walks and go outside to potty, but needs some time to figure out the routine before being trusted off leash.

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

Boots needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Boots 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.

Don't take Boots 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.).

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