



Donkey 336248: What to Expect

Donkey is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Donkey is a goofy guy looking for someone to match his silly, happy energy! He loves playing with his toys, meeting new friends, and is generally thrilled to be apart of whatever you have going on. Donkey comes to OHS through a local county shelter, and much of his history is a mystery prior to his time in the shelter system. What we do know is that the hustle and bustle of shelter life was incredibly stimulating to Donkey, and this state of overstimulation lead Donkey to develop habits like biting at the leash and jumping on handlers. While working with him in our Behavior Modification program, we've been able to help Donkey develop more impulse control and teach alternate behaviors (like keeping all four paws on the floor or sitting). He's a young dog that will need continued work on these manners, but a very eager and ready to go student!

During his time in the BMod program, Donkey has shown some barrier and leash reactivity to other dogs. Donkey will bark, whine, pull, and lunge towards other dogs he sees while out and about due to a mix of frustration and excitement. When allowed to meet other dogs, Donkey can be a little awkward and tense, not fully understanding how to start play with a potential new friend. We've worked with Donkey to help him learn how to walk in a calmer, more engaged manner on leash, check in with his handler, and work towards calm behaviors around other dogs. Donkey has made some great progress and has even played with some other dogs in the shelter! Uncontrolled social situations like dog parks or doggy daycares may be overwhelming for Donkey, and he'd do best with one or two known dogs in a controlled situation, like a backyard or Sniffspot.

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

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

Donkey needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Donkey 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 Donkey settle on a mat 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 Donkey 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.

Walk Donkey on an appropriate walking tool. We have been using a special head halter, called a transitional leash, to help guide Donkey to walk nicely on leash with little to no pulling. When Donkey sees other dogs on walks, they become incredibly excited and then frustrated that they cannot run up to say hello and play, causing them to jump, pull, whine, bark, and sometimes growl. It will be important to never let Donkey run up to other dogs on leash as that can reinforce their frustrations.

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 Donkey 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 Donkey 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 Donkey 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. Donkey 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/>).

Practice "Leave it." Donkey may bark and lunge if they see other dogs out on a walk. When a dog is sighted, **before** they start barking, say "leave it." When they turn to look at you, reward with praise and a treat and walk away from the trigger. Distance is calming.

Skip the dog park. Don't take Donkey 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.). Donkey has shown us they don't have an interest in being around other dogs/people. 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 Donkey calm and engaged with you.

Don't take Donkey 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.

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