



## Mozart 340922: What to Expect

**Mozart is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home.** Mozart is a sweet little dog who loves going for walkies, playing with his trusted human friends, and cuddling up for a nice warm nap in or near your lap. When nervous Mozart can become very frightened of people, loud noises, and any unnecessary handling. If uncomfortable Mozart will avoid interactions by backing away or hiding, if pressed further and cornered Mozart will defend himself the only way he knows how, by using his teeth. Mozart will attempt to give plenty of warning when he is uncomfortable by moving away, avoiding hands, and turning his face head away. When comfortable Mozart loves to be pet, picked up, held, and cuddle on your lap for pets and belly rubs. He will even become playful like a puppy and will use his mouth to play with toys or hands once he feels comfortable and confident. When comfortable Mozart is an eager student motivated by tasty treats and affection and would love to continue his learning in his new home.

Mozart is a long haired poodle type dog who will need frequent grooming in order to keep his coat free of tangles, matting, and debris. Future adopters should expect to bring Mozart in for routine trips to the groomers every 8-10 weeks paired with daily brushing to ensure his coat remains tangle free. Keeping his coat short and mat free will ensure any physical touch is pleasant instead of painful. It will also help him become more comfortable during these routine grooming appointments for the rest of his life. We've had the opportunity to introduce Mozart to dogs while at OHS and he prefers a more laid back and gentle dog, rather than a playful rowdy dog. A pet meet is required before adoption if there is a resident dog in the home.

### **Here's how to help Mozart 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 Mozart is not comfortable with strange people and doesn't enjoy meeting strangers while on their walk. Tossing a treat on the ground is more effective for your dog to make positive associations with new people. Distance is calming. Always allow for interactions to be your dog's choice.

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

**Limit introductions to new people.** Take your time to get to know Mozart before introducing them to someone new. They may need to meet a new person multiple times before feeling comfortable with strangers. Treats and allowing Mozart to approach as they feel comfortable will be best. New people should just completely ignore Mozart at first – playing hard to get is the way to their heart.

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

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

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

**Don't take Mozart 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 is an emergency, give your dog plenty of time to bond to you before taking them to your vet. Mozart does very well at the vet, they can 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 Mozart to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Mozart, 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!