



## Finnegan 342219: What to Expect

**Finnegan is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home.** Finnegan is the ultimate adventure buddy looking for someone to tackle the PNW with! He loves to learn new things, play with big stuffed toys, and zip around the yard as fast as his puppy legs will carry him. Finnegan originally came to OHS through our Second Chance program, and much of his history is a mystery. What we do know, however, is that Finnegan was adopted out to a family through OHS, where he displayed very exuberant puppy behaviors like jumping and mouthing. During one of these moments of excitement, Finnegan's sharp puppy tooth accidentally made contact on someone's body and broke skin, giving him the status of having a bite history. Upon his return to OHS, Finnegan was brought into the Behavior Modification program where we were able to work with him and teach him new skills to better navigate these moments of excitement. Skills like sitting and waiting before exiting doors and before greeting people, redirecting his mouth to fun toys, and rewarding Finnegan with treats and praise for keeping all four paws on the ground. He's a quick study and loves to learn, Finnegan has picked up on all his training wonderfully! Future adopters will need to be ready to continue working with Finnegan and help him navigate these strong emotions as he grows into the awesome dog he's sure to become.

During Finnegan's time at OHS, we've introduced him to a variety of dogs and seen that he loves to play! However, this enthusiasm for play and excitement to meet new puppy friends can sometimes cause him to rush into interactions with other dogs. While other social and rambunctious dogs will have a blast playing in a rough & tumble playstyle with Finnegan, older or less tolerant dogs may not enjoy his puppy energy. We believe Finnegan could enjoy living with another social and playful dog and having an appropriate playmate could be a great outlet for Finnegan, helping show him how to play nicely with others. A resident dog is not required, but Finnegan will need to meet any potential dog siblings before going home. Because of Finnegan's rowdy playstyle, we believe he will do best in a home without small children, as he might accidentally knock them over or grab toys/food out of their little hands in his excitement.

### **Here's how to help Finnegan settle in during your first months together:**

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

**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.

**Finnegan needs daily exercise to reduce stress.** Finnegan 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 Finnegan 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 Finnegan 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 time to settle and relax in the crate.

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

**“Puppy proof” your home and practice tether training** to prevent them from getting into puppy/adolescent trouble. When home have Finnegan 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 Finnegan 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 Finnegan 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.** Finnegan 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 is an emergency, give your dog plenty of time to bond to you before taking them to your vet. Finnegan does very well at the vet, they 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 Finnegan to be successful in your home. We’re available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Finnegan, 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!