



Hiro 331777: What to Expect

Hiro is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Hiro is an adolescent dog who loves people, dogs, and playing! His exuberance for life is infectious and will inspire you to get up and explore the world with Hiro as your faithful companion. Hiro can be a bit of a shy and uncertain guy at times with the goings on in the world, likely due to lack of exposure in his youth. This can manifest in him being uncertain, balking at loud noises, or attempts to hide. When he's out with a trusty handler or another confident and social dog, Hiro feels more confident tackling the sights of the big wide world with curiosity instead of skepticism. Once comfortable, Hiro is playful, excitable, and lovable with those around him. Sometimes his zest for life can overflow into overly excited unwanted behaviors such as jumping and mouthing at loose fitting clothes, and if overstimulated further mounting. We've been successful teaching Hiro more desirable behaviors like impulse control by sitting, waiting, and redirecting onto appropriate toys. He is still learning how to regulate his emotions in a high state of arousal, like when his family comes home from work or meeting a new dog friend. His new family will find success using the same positive reinforcement techniques we've found successful here at OHS. We think he would do well in a home without small children, he could easily knock over in his excitement and playful nature.

During his time at OHS we've had the opportunity to introduce Hiro to various dogs and found that he is an active and social young man who loves a rough and tumble play style. His excitement at seeing another dog can manifest in pulling on leash to say hi, barking in frustration that he can't say hi, and then running up to a dog to say hi. This can be interpreted as rude to most dogs, and we've been helping Hiro understand it's more polite and acceptable to observe, sniff, and then decide to play if it's reciprocated. Sensitive, elder, or shy dogs might find his behavior to be too much, but a dog who shares his similar play style will find him to be a great play partner. In a previous home, the resident dog found Hiro's exuberance for life to be too much, and this led to many misunderstandings and scuffles. We think Hiro would be successful in a home with the right personality match, so a pet meet is required before adoption to ensure compatibility.

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

If you're having people over, put Hiro on leash so they learn not to 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 Hiro to sit before being pet so they're rewarded for keeping 4 feet on the floor.

Hiro needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Hiro 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 Hiro 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 Hiro 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.

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.

“Puppy proof” your home and practice tether training to prevent them from getting into puppy/adolescent trouble. When home have Hiro 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 Hiro 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 Hiro 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. Hiro 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/>).

Don’t take Hiro 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.).

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

Visiting the Vet: Unless it is an emergency, give your dog plenty of time to bond to you before taking them to your vet. Hiro 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 Hiro to be successful in your home. We’re available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Hiro, 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!