



## Tango 343548: What to Expect

**Tango is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home.** Tango is a super cute adventurous French Bulldog, who has a lot of love to give! Bursting with joy and finding happiness in everything he does! Tango loves meeting new friends, both human & canine, he loves going for walks, playing with toys, and when appropriately exercised, laying next to his people on the couch! **Tango is easily over aroused and is learning how to regulate his emotions into calm and cooperative behaviors.** When Tango is excited or frustrated, like during leashing, unleashing, playing with toys, when being ignored, or when his people leave the room, he often jumps up on his handlers and may grab onto loose fitting clothing, the leash, or bags/purses with his mouth. Despite his size, he has serious hops and while he hasn't broken skin when mouthing, his attempts to grab onto clothes have left bruises. We've been successful teaching Tango to sit & wait for leashing or before throwing toys in the yard. He will need patient, consistent, and determined owners who can continue his training using the same positive reinforcement-based training we've found successful here at OHS. It will take several months with daily training before Tango will be able to decompress into his new home to a point where he can regulate his emotions into a cool, calm, and cooperative dog. While Tango is potato shaped, his new home should expect him to be more wilderness explorer than couch potato. He wants to get up and go, explore, and play more than he wants to relax. Despite Tango's compact size, he has quite the enthusiasm for life, and he could easily accidentally knock over young children in his excitement, grab snacks/toys out of their hands, or nip at them as they run around. Because of this, we believe he will do best in a home with teenage, dog savvy children.

During his time at OHS, we've introduced Tango to a variety of dogs and seen that he loves to play! However, this enthusiasm for play and excitement to meet new dog friends can often cause him to bulldoze into interactions with other dogs. While other social and rambunctious dogs will have a blast playing in a rough & tumble playstyle with Tango, older or more sensitive dogs may not enjoy his rambunctious energy and general zest for life. We believe Tango could enjoy living with another social and playful dog, but he would also enjoy soaking up all the human love and attention for himself. It will be important for adopters to regulate the play and interactions with resident dog and Tango while they adjust to each other – separating dogs for feedings, sleeping, and any time adopters cannot visually keep attention on the dogs. A resident dog is not required, but Tango will need to meet any potential dog siblings before going home to ensure compatibility. Tango is untested with cats, because of his rowdy playstyle we believe he may do best in a home without cats or one with confident, dog savvy cats.

Tango's energy and behavior is not for a first time dog owner looking for quiet companionship. While Tango may be small, his personality and behavior is more large active working dog, than small house dog. Families not experienced with high energy, overstimulated, and persistent dogs will find Tango to be overwhelming. A family who is interested in starting training immediately and continuing for the next 6 months to a year will find Tango to be a delightful companion who is always ready for the next adventure. His social personality would make him a great outing companion, but adopters should consider that it will take several months of rigorous training, before Tango can keep his cool in exciting situations like walking around a Farmer's Market, attending a dog park, or going for a hike.

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

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

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

**Tango needs daily exercise to reduce stress.** Tango 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.

**Let them drag a leash attached to their collar** for the first week or two inside and outside the home. This will help you guide Tango into making appropriate decisions and reduce the practice of unwanted behavior. If you go slow at the beginning, you'll build a trusting relationship. Treats always help!

**Don't take Tango 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.).

**Take Tango outside on leash.** Even if you have a fenced yard, please do not let Tango out alone. They are small and they could easily hide under your deck or a bush - or slip through a gap in your fence! Tango 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.

**Work on having Tango 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 Tango 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.

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

**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 Tango 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 Tango 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 Tango 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.** Tango 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. Tango 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.

### **We're here to help!**

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