



Cavatappi 343975: What to Expect

Cavatappi is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. If you ever wondered what a short coat floppy eared fox would look like, look no further than Cavatappi! This prancing pup loves long leisurely walks, sniffing deep into bushes, and licking up every last treat crumb from your hand. Cavatappi came to Oregon Humane from our Humane Law Enforcement program when his former owner became overwhelmed by the large number of dogs they were caring for. Before coming to Oregon Humane, Cavatappi had never worn a collar, walked on a leash, or had the chance to explore new places. When he first arrived at the shelter, the busy environment felt overwhelming, and he coped by shutting down and keeping to himself. When Cavatappi feels scared or unsure, he tries to move away from whatever is worrying him. If he isn't able to create that space, or if interactions feel too pushy, he may growl or snap to communicate that he needs distance. We brought him into the Behavior Modification Program to work with him in a calmer and quieter environment, to help him learn what living a pet dog life is like. Once comfortable, he enjoys going for walks and will approach the people he trusts, happily taking tasty treats from their hands. He has made wonderful progress during his time at Oregon Humane, though he may never be the type of pet dog who seeks out lots of affection or constant petting.

Cavatappi is looking for patient, understanding people who will give him the time and gentle guidance he needs to adjust to his new pet dog life. Cavatappi would do best in an adult-only home with a calm, low-traffic environment, away from the hustle and bustle of downtown living or busy streets. It's normal to expect that many things will feel overwhelming for him at first. During those first important months in a new home, his safety will depend on thoughtful planning and patience. **A frightened dog will look for any occasion to bolt when startled: out of vehicles, out the front door, or slipping out of the leash. Keep a very tight grip of that leash!** With time, patience, and understanding, Cavatappi will continue to blossom, feel more at ease, and comfortable in his new home.

We've introduced Cavatappi to a variety of dogs and found that he prefers calmly coexisting with other socially neutral dogs. Dogs that are very rowdy or enjoy rough-and-tumble play can overwhelm him. However, when he's around dogs who prefer relaxing or simply hanging out rather than active play, Cavatappi is content to share the space. We believe he could do well in a home with another calm independent dog; having a confident canine companion might even help build his confidence. While a resident dog is not required for Cavatappi, he will need to meet any dogs in the home prior to adoption to make sure everyone is a good match.

Here's how to help Cavatappi 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 Cavatappi is not comfortable with people and doesn't enjoy meeting strangers while on their walk.

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

Don't take Cavatappi 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.).

Supervise your dog outside. Even if you have a fenced yard, please do not let Cavatappi out alone. They are small and so easily frightened they 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.

When you have people over, **it's okay to put Cavatappi in another room.** If you'd like Cavatappi to meet a guest, put them on a leash and give them time to adjust before allowing your guest to pet. Let it be Cavatappi's choice to go to them for pets or hang back and watch. Crowding Cavatappi or forcing them to interact can make fearful behavior worse.

Use an exercise pen to confine Cavatappi to a small area when you are not home or able to supervise them (see picture). Give them a bed, water, favorite toy, and a potty pad. This "safe spot" will also be a great place to put them when you have visitors to your home, so they don't have to worry about interacting with everyone if they're not comfortable.



Cavatappi's "safe spot" when no one is home.

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

Visiting the Vet: Unless it's an emergency, give your dog plenty of time to bond to you before taking them to your vet. Start with positive visits just for treats. Vet visits will more than likely be scary, but if your dog already trusts you, your presence may help them feel more comfortable.

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