



Guillermo 312089: What to Expect

Guillermo is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Guillermo is a sweet and active dog who enjoys going for walks, running around with his dog friends, and exploring the outdoors. Guillermo has had a positive history living with dogs, kids, cats, and being crated when left alone in the home. Guillermo can be nervous in new situations and environments, especially with loud noises and busy fast paced neighborhoods. If uncomfortable he will pace around, look for places to hide, and on occasion bark at unknown sights and sounds. Once comfortable he loves to be with his family receiving all the love and affection and exploring new smells.

Guillermo is a large but sweet marshmallow of a dog. His temperament is relaxed, curious, and affectionate, but his sensitive nature can make him uncomfortable in new and busy environments. When nervous Guillermo can pull on leash, not want to be left alone in a yard, or attempt to hide to avoid what frightens him. Guillermo responds well to positive reinforcement training techniques and enjoys learning new things through treats and positive experiences. A quiet neighborhood or walking trail could help Guillermo ease into the hustle and bustle of living an urban life. He would not do well in a high-rise apartment or a busy downtown type of neighborhood with a lot of vehicle and/or foot traffic. His owners will need to be mindful about slowly introducing Guillermo to new stimulus in a positive and/or neutral way.

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

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

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 Guillermo is not comfortable with strange people and doesn't enjoy meeting strangers while on their walk. Letting Guillermo smell without people reaching for him will help him explore confidently without worry strangers will grab him.

Let them drag a leash attached to their collar for the first week inside and outside the home. Fast movements are startling, and it will take time for them to be okay with you approaching and removing the leash. If you go slow at the beginning, you'll build a trusting relationship. Treats always help!

Don't take Guillermo 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.).

If you're having people over, put Guillermo 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. Let Guillermo smell your guests first without them touching, so he's comfortable approaching. Treats always help.

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.

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

Use routine to get Guillermo comfortable in their new home. It will take a couple weeks for Guillermo 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 Guillermo 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 Guillermo 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 Guillermo 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.

We expect that Guillermo will be overwhelmed by everything he encounters at first. During the critical first months in a new home, his safety will depend on your good judgment and forethought. **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!**

Visiting the Vet: Unless it is an emergency, give your dog plenty of time to bond to you before taking them to your vet. Guillermo 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 Guillermo to be successful in your home. We’re available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Guillermo, we can also set up a free one-on-one consultation. For questions or to schedule an appointment, contact us at **(503) 285-7722 ex 422** 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!