



Pixar 346113: What to Expect

Pixar is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Pixar is an interesting mix of what we assume is cattle dog and chihuahua. While shy at first, once he's comfortable and warms up to his people he becomes a little cuddle bug who melts into pets like warm butter, loves to play fetch, and will follow you around like a little shadow. Pixar came to Oregon Humane through our Humane Law enforcement, when his previous living situation became an unsafe and lacked appropriate animal welfare. His history prior to this situation is a mystery. But we've had the opportunity to get to know Pixar well, moving him into our Behavior Modification program where he could find a quiet calm space to relax, decompress, and come out of his shell. Upon arrival Pixar was fearful and avoidant of people, choosing to observe rather than interact. When pushed into interactions he would attempt to protect himself and create space by barking, moving away, and if cornered further snapping. He would do best in a low traffic home with no small children, who's unpredictable fast movements and loud noises could easily frighten him.

Since moving him into our Behavior Modification program Pixar has shown us he's a certified lover boy and Velcro dog who would love nothing more than to keep your lap warm, follow you around, and play fetch. He has been introduced to various dogs of different size and temperament and shown he is neutral to social with other dogs and respects the boundaries of others. He could go into a home with another confident and social resident dog, a pet meet is required before adoption to ensure personality compatibility.

Pixar is working on potty training success in only eliminating outside. Currently he knows how to target a potty pad when it is close by but is still learning how to cue he has to potty and to wait until he has access outside. Adopters will need to be diligent in training him with appropriate potty etiquette as he adjusts to his new lifestyle. This could mean frequent trips outside, utilizing a crate, restricting water intake, and possibly using belly bands to ensure his success in eliminating outside.

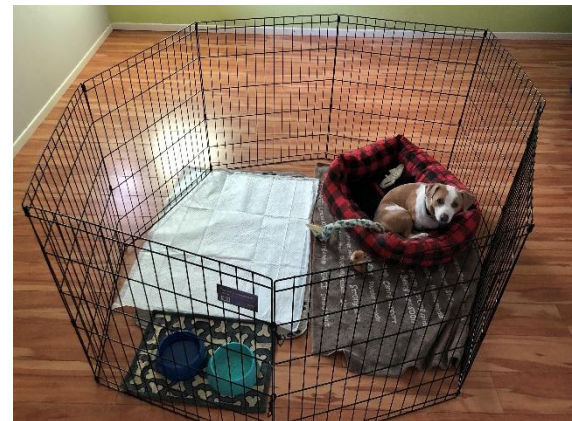
Here's how to help Pixar settle in during your first months together:

Use an exercise pen to confine Pixar 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.

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

We expect that Pixar will be overwhelmed by everything they encounter at first. During the critical first months in a new home, their 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!**

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 Pixar is not comfortable with people and doesn't enjoy meeting strangers while on their walk. Tossing a treat on the ground is more effective for your dog to make positive associations with new people. Distance is calming.



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

Allow for time to build trust. Always let Pixar decide if they want to come closer to you. Don't force interactions. As they grow more comfortable, you will see Pixar decide that they enjoy spending time with you by coming closer for pets, jumping next to you on the couch, and following your resident dog around.

Supervise your dog outside. Even if you have a fenced yard, please do not let Pixar out alone. They are small and 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.

Limit introductions to new people. Take your time to get to know Pixar before introducing them to someone new. They may need to meet a new person multiple times before feeling comfortable with strangers. Treats and allowing Pixar to approach as they feel comfortable will be best. New people should just completely ignore Pixar at first – playing hard to get is the way to their heart.

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

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

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 Pixar 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 Pixar 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 Pixar 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.

Don't take Pixar 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.).

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