



Dougie 346392: What to Expect

Dougie is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Dougie is a very sweet velvet hippo of a pitty! He loves to make new friends, both human and canine, and is always down for a sniffy walk or a romp in the play yards. Dougie comes to Oregon Humane through our Second Chance program, where he entered the shelter system as a stray. During his time in this shelter, Dougie struggled with the overstimulating environment of the shelter, and this manifested as jumping and mouthing handler's leashes and loose-fitting clothing. Dougie entering the Behavior Modification program has given us the ability to offer a less stimulating environment and introduce more predictability and routine into Dougie's day. We've also worked with Dougie to introduce alternate behaviors to jumping for attention, like sitting and keeping all four paws on the ground. We have also introduced more impulse control throughout his day, practicing sitting and waiting at doors and prior to playing with new dogs. Dougie has made fantastic progress, and loves working with his handlers to learn new things! Future adopters will need to be ready to continue working with Dougie to help him navigate his excitable feelings.

During his time with us, Dougie has been introduced to multiple dogs. Dougie finds joy in interacting with other dogs and prefers a high contact and wrestling play style. Another dog in the home that wants to match his energy could be a great fit for him! A pet meet is required before adoption to ensure there is a personality match. However, uncontrolled social situations like dog parks may be overwhelming for Dougie. Playdates with known dogs in a backyard or Sniffspot would be a great alternative for Dougie, as it allows his future adopters to continue to provide him with positive social experiences with other dogs.

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

Use routine to get Dougie comfortable in their new home. It will take a couple weeks for Dougie 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 Dougie's training will create a bond and a form of communication between two species who don't understand each other. The more positive experiences Dougie has with his owners, the more valuable you will become in high distracting situations

Dougie needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Dougie 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.

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

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.

Don't take Dougie 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.).

Work on having Dougie 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 Dougie 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.

“Puppy proof” your home and practice tether training to prevent them from getting into puppy/adolescent trouble. When home have Dougie 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 Dougie 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 Dougie 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. Dougie 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. Dougie does very well at the vet, they handle meeting new being 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 Dougie to be successful in your home. We’re available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Dougie, 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!