



Zippy 343539: What to Expect

Zippy is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Zippy is a sweet, playful, and very athletic Australian Shepherd! He loves going for walks, romping in the yard, and snuggling up with his people on the sofa! Zippy came to Oregon Humane from our Second Chance program, so much of his history is unknown. During his time with us, we have seen that he is a shy but super sweet guy, who can take his time to warm up to new friends. We've been successful introducing Zippy to a variety of new people and with his favorite treats he easily accepts them into his social circle. When uncomfortable, Zippy may move away from who or what frightens him, and if handlers continue to push him in this frightened state, he may bark or snap in attempts to create space for himself. While on walks Zippy can crouch low to the ground and seek a place to hide or dart. It will take time for him to gain confidence walking in new spaces. Once comfortable, Zippy greets his favorite people with excited full body wiggles, smiles and leans his full body weight into them for pets. We believe Zippy will do best in a quiet, low-traffic home, away from the hustle & bustle of downtown or busy neighborhoods. With time, he would love to become your PNW adventure buddy, accompanying you on walks, hikes, and trips to the beach or river and everything in between!

Zippy was briefly adopted from Oregon Humane, and when the owner was trying to move Zippy from one location to another, they grabbed Zippy by his collar. This sudden handling frightened Zippy and caused him to snap at the owner's hands, resulting in a bite. During his time at Oregon Humane, we've been successful pairing handling that Zippy might find uncomfortable such as leashing or brushing, with positive reinforcement, like tasty treats. With this method, Zippy has built trust with his handlers, and he more easily allows handling. Future adopters should be prepared to continue training with Zippy, using the same positive reinforcement-based training we've found successful here at Oregon Humane. We believe Zippy will do best in a home without small children, as their unpredictable fast movements, loud noises, or desire to grab will likely be frightening to Zippy. Instead, we believe he would do best in a home with older, dog savvy children who can understand and respect his personal space.

During his time at Oregon Humane, we've successfully introduced Zippy to a variety of dogs, and he's shown that he likes to play! While Zippy does like to play, he prefers playing with other dogs who are also gentle in their interactions. Zippy can find overexcited dogs, who want to play rough or wrestle, to be overwhelming. When with a well-matched play mate, Zippy likes to play chase, but he's also happy to coexist with his dog friends, without pressure to directly interact. He would likely find uncontrolled settings like dog parks or doggie daycare to be overwhelming. Instead, he would be better suited for one-on-one play dates with known dogs in a fenced yard or SniffSpot. Zippy could enjoy living with another well-socialized dog but may also enjoy soaking up all the love and affection for himself. He will need to meet any resident dogs prior to adoption to help ensure the dogs are a compatible match.

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

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 Zippy is not comfortable with strange people and doesn't enjoy meeting strangers while on their walk.

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

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

Zippy needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Zippy 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.

Work on having Zippy 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 Zippy 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.

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.

Take a training class. Zippy 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. Zippy 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.

Behavioral Medication for your new dog

This dog has been prescribed one or more medications to help reduce anxiety and impulsivity during their time in the shelter. You may be provided with a supply of this dog's medication(s) along with specific dosing instructions at the time of adoption. We would recommend that you continue giving this medication for at least the first 6 months after adoption to help reduce stress that may be associated with this dog making a smooth transition into your home. In order to avoid any adverse side effects (including behavioral and systemic) please do not abruptly stop administering these medications or discontinue use without consulting your veterinarian. When it appears time to stop giving your dog these medications, please contact your veterinarian for an appropriate protocol to make sure you have enough medication to allow for a gradual weaning off process. Please do not substitute other supplements or medications (including your own prescriptions) without consulting a veterinary professional.

During this process, please watch for any signs of worsening fear or anxiety. If the dog appears to be getting worse during the weaning off process, contact your veterinarian as longer treatment or a different combination of medications may be needed. Remember that successful behavioral rehabilitation often relies on a combination of pharmaceutical therapy as well as various training modalities.

We're here to help!

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