



Barely 337934: What to Expect

Barely is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Barely is a lovable guy with a lot of happiness to share! He can be a little nervous at first but quickly warms up to new people, especially with tasty treats! When uncomfortable, Barely may try to move away from what frightens him; this can look like darting, planting on leash or trying to hide. Once comfortable, he takes treats and readily accepts attention from his people. When Barely is comfortable with his friends, his excitement can cause him to jump up on them and if overstimulated further, may grab onto the leash, loose fitting clothing, or bags/purses with his mouth. We've been successful teaching Barely alternative behaviors such as, sitting and waiting for leashing or pets. He will need patient owners, without small children, who can continue his training using the same positive reinforcement-based techniques we've found successful here at Oregon Humane.

Barely was previously adopted from Oregon Humane and during his short time in this home, he found the busy vehicle traffic near his home to be incredibly stressful. During one of these moments of stress, when Barely was trying to move away from the noises of cars and trucks, he accidentally slipped his collar, running into the street. We believe he will do best in a quiet environment, low-traffic home, away from the hustle & bustle of downtown living or busy streets like Hawthorne. Instead, he will benefit from walking in areas with minimal car traffic, while he builds up his confidence and trust with his new family. We expect that Barely 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!**

During his time at Oregon Humane, we have introduced Barely to a variety of dogs and have seen that he likes to play! While Barely does like to play, he prefers other social dogs who are also gentle in their interactions. If the other dog is more rough or rowdy in their play, Barely can easily become overwhelmed and try to avoid the interaction. Because of this, he is not a candidate for uncontrolled settings like dog parks or doggie daycares. Instead, he better suited for one-on-one playdates with known dogs, such as a friend's dog in a fenced backyard or Sniff Spot. We believe Barely could enjoy living with another well socialized dog to play with and help boost his confidence. A pet meet is required prior to adoption to help ensure the dogs are a compatible match.

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

Allow for time to build trust. Always let Barely decide if they want to come closer to you. Don't force interactions. As they grow more comfortable, you will see Barely 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.

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

Barely needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Barely 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 Barely settle on a mat 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 Barely 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.

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