



## Fozzy 346903: What to Expect

**Fozzy is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home.** Fozzy is a super cute, scruffy little guy with the most adorable mohawk! He can be nervous at first, but once he warms up, he can be found jumping up on his favorite people for pets, following them around on causal walks, or curled up in their lap for snuggles. Fozzy came to Oregon Humane when his previous owner became overwhelmed by the large number of dogs they were caring for. While it was in Fozzy's best interest to leave this situation and come to the shelter, this big change was still overwhelming for him and caused him to shut down, avoiding interactions with people. We moved Fozzy into our Behavior Modification program to provide him with a quieter place to decompress and settle into shelter life. Fozzy has made a lot of progress during his time at Oregon Humane. He's learned that people are cool and often have tasty treats, how to walk on a leash, and to explore new places. He will need patient owners, without small children, who can continue to slowly introduce him to pet dog life. We believe he will do best in a quiet, low traffic home, away from the hustle & bustle of downtown living or busy streets such as Hawthorne. We expect that Fozzy will be overwhelmed by everything they encounter 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!**

During Fozzy's time at Oregon Humane, we have seen that he loves to urinate or "mark" inside. While Fozzy does like to go for walks and go potty outside, he often still marks inside, even after a walk. He will need owners who can dedicate time to helping him understand where an appropriate place is to go potty, using the same positive reinforcement training we've found successful here at Oregon Humane. We have also seen that Fozzy gets a great deal of comfort from hanging out with other small & well-socialized dogs. While a resident dog is not required, he may enjoy living with another dog who can help boost his confidence and show him the ropes of pet dog life. A pet meet is required prior to adoption to ensure the dogs are compatible.

### **Here's how to help Fozzy settle in during your first months together:**

**Designate a "safe spot" in your home.** You can use a crate or taller baby gates to confine them to a smaller area where they have access to water, bed, and toys. When you are unable to supervise the dog, leave them in their safe spot. Slowly work towards leaving them alone unsecured once they've had the chance to settle into your home and you know with certainty, they will be comfortable.

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

**Let them drag a leash attached to their collar** for the first week or two 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!

**Take Fozzy outside on leash.** Even if you have a fenced yard, please do not let Fozzy out alone. They are so small, that they could easily hide under your deck or a bush - or slip through a gap in your fence! Fozzy does like to go for walks and go outside to potty but needs some time to figure out the routine before being trusted off leash.

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

**Don't take Fozzy 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 is an emergency, give your dog plenty of time to bond to you before taking them to your vet. Fozzy 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.

### **We're here to help!**

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