



Doily 351098: What to Expect

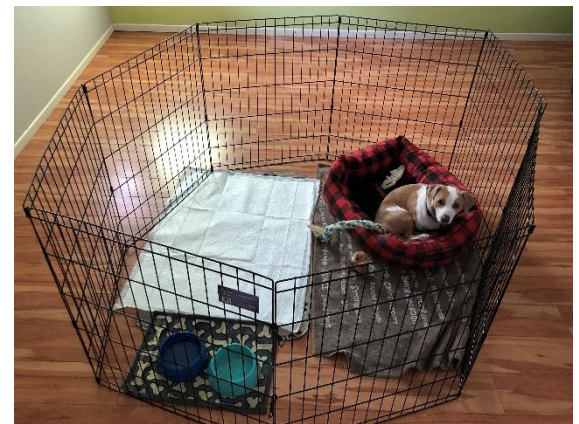
Doily a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Doily is a cute little sweet boy looking for a quiet low traffic home where he can be adored. Doily loves to go for walks and relax on the couch with you. The perfect partner for those leisurely neighborhood strolls and your next Netflix and chill companion. When nervous, overwhelmed, or frightened Doily will defer to avoidance of whatever is aversive to him. This can be new people, loud and busy places, and/or being rushed by dogs. Doily will choose to avoid and move away from whatever frightens him, if pressured further he might dart and attempt to run away. Doily finds fast paced, high traffic, and chaotic environments overwhelming. He would not do well in an environment with small children as their unpredictable fast movements and loud noises to be startling.

We expect that Doily 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!**

Doily is a dog who will need consistent grooming to ensure his coat stays clean and free from tangles, matting, and debris. Consistent brushing and grooming appointments will be important to ensure his coat remains healthy and comfortable. The matting of his fur can cause pain and even sores if left unattended. This pain will cause Doily's behavior to change as he attempts to alleviate what is causing him discomfort. This can cause irritability like snapping, biting, and avoidance of any handling. Scheduling routine grooming visits with a trusted grooming salon will ensure he remains comfortable.

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

Use an exercise pen to confine Doily to a small area when you are not home or able to supervise them (see picture). Give them a bed, water, 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.



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

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 Doily 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.

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!

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

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

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

Don't take Doily 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. Doily 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 Doily to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Doily, 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!