



## Dutch 346902: What to Expect

**Dutch is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home.** Dutch is a super sweet little terrier who enjoys going for causal strolls, lounging in cozy dog beds, and once comfortable, snuggling up in laps. Prior to coming into Oregon Humane, Dutch was living in a home with multiple other small dogs, but had limited exposure to the outside world. Dutch is still learning that new people, places, and experiences can be safe and enjoyable. When Dutch is nervous or uncomfortable, he tries to move away from who or what is frightening him. This can look like hiding, darting on leash, or snapping if pushed to interact. When allowed to warm up on his terms, Dutch easily makes new human friends, and once comfortable can be found following them around on walks or leaping into their laps for snuggles. We believe Dutch will do best in a quiet, low traffic home, away from the hustle & bustle of downtown living or busy streets such as Hawthorne. He will need patient owners, without small children, who can continue to introduce him to pet dog life, slowly, using the same positive reinforcement-based training techniques we've found successful here at Oregon Humane.

During Dutch's time at Oregon Humane, we've introduced him to a variety of dogs and seen that he is gentle in his interactions. If dogs are rough or rowdy in their interactions, Dutch can easily get overwhelmed or frightened. Instead, he prefers to coexist with other small dogs who are also gentle and indifferent, opting to sniff around together rather than wrestle. We believe Dutch could enjoy & benefit from living with another social and confident dog to help show him the ropes, but he may also enjoy soaking up all the human attention for himself as the only dog. While a resident dog is not required, Dutch will need to meet any potential canine companions prior to adoption to help ensure the dogs are a compatible match.

### **Here's how to help Dutch 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.

**Take Dutch outside on leash.** Even if you have a fenced yard, please do not let Dutch 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! Dutch 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.

**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 Dutch decide if they want to come closer to you. Don't force interactions. As they grow more comfortable, you will see Dutch 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.

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

**Visiting the Vet:** Unless it is an emergency, give your dog plenty of time to bond to you before taking them to your vet. Dutch 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 Dutch to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Dutch, 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!