



## Scout 346909: What to Expect

**Scout is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home.** Scout is a very sweet, albeit nervous little guy. It can take him a little time to warm up to new people and environments, but once he does, he enjoys going for casual walks, playing with toys, and sitting on the laps of his trusted human friends. Scout came to Oregon Humane when his previous owner became overwhelmed by the large number of dogs they were caring for. While it was in Scout'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. When Scout is nervous, he will try to move away from who or what is making him uncomfortable. This can look like trying to hide or darting on leash. If handlers push him further in this frightened state, Scout may growl or snap to communicate his discomfort. Scout has made a lot of progress during his time at Oregon Humane! He's learned that people are cool (& often have tasty treats), how to walk on leash and explore new environments. We believe he will do best in a low traffic home away from the hustle & bustle of busy streets or neighborhoods. He will need patient owners, without young children, who can continue to introduce him to the world & what it means to be a pet dog, slowly, using the same positive reinforcement-based training we've found successful here at Oregon Humane. We expect that Scout 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 Scout's time at Oregon Humane, we've introduced him to a variety of dogs and seen that he prefers to coexist with other dogs who are also gentle in their interactions. If the other dog is rough, rowdy, or pushing Scout to play, he can easily become overwhelmed or frightened. Instead, he enjoys going for walks and sniffing around the yard with dogs who also enjoy leisurely activities. We believe that Scout could benefit from living with another well socialized dog to help boost his confidence and show him the ropes of pet dog life. While a resident dog is not required, he will need to meet any potential canine companions before going home to ensure the dogs are comfortable together.

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

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

**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!

**Supervise your dog outside.** Even if you have a fenced yard, please do not let Scout 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.

**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 Scout 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.

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

**Visiting the Vet:** Unless it's an emergency, give your dog plenty of time to bond to you before taking them to your vet. Start with positive visits just for treats. Vet visits will more than likely be scary, but if your dog already trusts you, your presence may help them feel more comfortable.

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