



Binky 352314: What to Expect

Binky is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Binky is a spunky little gal with one big dream: to become your tiny shadow. She's looking for a forever human to be her ride-or-die, cuddle connoisseur, and partner in leisurely sniffaris around the neighborhood. If you're searching for a best friend who believes personal space is wildly overrated, Binky is ready to fill the position. When she first arrived to OH, she was nervous and unsure about being handled by unfamiliar people, especially when it came to being picked up or leashed. When she felt overwhelmed, she would try to create distance or communicate that she needed space by growling and snapping at hands that tried to leash her. To help her feel more comfortable, we brought her into our Behavior Modification Program, where she could decompress in a quieter environment while building confidence and learn new skills. While Binky has made wonderful progress and enjoys meeting new people and exploring new places, she is still learning to feel comfortable with the more hands-on aspects of leash handling, such as putting her leash on and taking it off. Her future adopters should continue to move at her pace and help build her confidence using the same positive reinforcement techniques that have been successful during her time at Oregon Humane.

During Binky's time at Oregon Humane, we've introduced her to a variety of dogs and observed that she much prefers coexisting with other social and gentle dogs. When dogs are rowdy or have a rough & tumble play style, Binky can easily get overwhelmed. But when the other dogs are of similar size and prefer hanging out over playing, she's happy to coexist. Binky could be a good match for a home with a confident, socially appropriate dog who is comfortable with calm interactions, and a pet meet is required prior to adoption to assess compatibility. She would also be a-ok as the only dog in the home, so she could soak up all her person's love and affection.

Here's how to help Binky 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 Binky is not comfortable with 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.

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

We expect that Binky 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!**

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