



Milo 352993: What to Expect

Milo is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. He's a happy little guy that loves going for long walks to ensure he has a chance to sniff as much of the local fauna as possible. When he isn't snuffling around outside, Milo loves playing with stuffies and hanging out with his human friends on the couch. He is an active little dog and would love to get adventurous with you exploring your neighborhood or the beautiful outdoors of the PNW. As a certified lover boy he wants nothing more than to follow you around and soak up all your love and attention and spend his days playing with his favorite toys.

Due to his breed he will need frequent grooming appointments every 6-8 weeks to help keep his coat clean and clear of painful mats and tangling. Allowing his coat to tangle can lead to painful matting, which can cause Milo great discomfort and lead to him not enjoying touch from people. During his time in the shelter, Milo has displayed some discomfort around grooming, opting to snap at hands coming towards him with grooming tools. With time Milo has gotten comfortable and trusting with the humans caring for him and has allowed grooming with brushing and trimming. His family will need to continue to work on ensuring his safety and comfort around grooming.

In a foster home Milo was noted to be a frequent urine marker, which would at times lead him to attempt to urine mark in the home. He was comfortable wearing Belly Bands to help manage this behavior when unsupervised. Since being altered, we have seen a significant reduction in attempts to urine mark indoors. It is likely that in a new home with frequent access to an appropriate potty area this behavior will be eliminated entirely.

We've had the opportunity to introduce Milo to multiple dogs during his time with us. He has shown a great deal of excitement towards other dogs with little social skills during these heightened states of arousal. At the sight of other dogs, Milo may bark, pull, and growl. If allowed to approach in this state he can jump on dogs, mount them, bark, and chase. With slow introductions with social confident dogs, Milo has been successful playing in a chase and wrestle manner. It's possible he could live in a home with another dog, but his family will need to monitor their time together to ensure comfort of both dogs and no mediate any misunderstandings. Older, smaller, or easily offended dogs will find Milo's behavior to be rude and could lead to squirmishes.

Here's how to help Milo 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.

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

If you're having people over, put Milo on leash so they learn to not dart out the front door or jump all over people. Once everyone is sitting down and calm you can drop the leash and allow your dog to decide if they want to go say hi to your guests, ensure your guests ask Milo to sit before being pet so they're rewarded for keeping 4 feet on the floor.

Milo needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Milo loves to go for runs, walks, play fetch, and chase a flirt pole. Giving your dog a healthy outlet for some of their energy will help them settle during calm hours at home.

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

Use treats and toys to build trust. Maintaining and continuing Milo's training will create a bond and a form of communication between two species who don't understand each other. The more positive experiences Milo has with their owners, the more valuable you will become in high distracting situations.

Take a training class. Milo would benefit from taking some training classes with their new owners and would love to learn more alongside their family in a training class. Training classes help strengthen the bond between owner and dog by creating clear and precise communication so there are no misunderstandings. You can find more info about our training classes on our website at (<https://www.oregonhumane.org/training/training-at-ohs/>).

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