



Trinity 353795: What to Expect

Trinity is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Trinity is a shy girl who likes taking things slow and easy. Her gentle disposition makes her a calm companion for a quiet low traffic home. Trinity's history is a mystery to us, but she's shown us she enjoys taking leisurely walks where she can sniff every flower on the way, quiet hangs with the TV turned low, and gentle dog friends to play with. When overwhelmed with loud noises, heavy traffic, or rough and rowdy dogs Trinity will attempt to flee these situations by darting into the bushes, hiding under furniture, or freezing. She would do well in a quiet low traffic home away from the hustle and bustle of a busy neighborhood and one without small children whose fast unpredictable movements and vocalizations may be startling.

When comfortable, especially around the presence of a calm and confident helper dog, Trinity will come out of her shell with swooping tail wags, lean in for pets, and romp around with her dog friends. She will need a patient family who can take the time to slowly but surely open up her world with confidence and trust. She would do well in a home with another confident and social gentle resident dog whom she can learn the ins and outs of being a pet dog. A pet meet is required before adoption to ensure compatible personalities.

Here's how to help Trinity 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 Trinity 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.

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

Wait to take walks. Trinity will need time to bond with you before you start taking them for walks. Give them a couple of weeks to get to know you and their new home, then practice walking around your yard before trying a walk around the block. Trinity will do best walking alongside a confident canine companion. They're already doing a great job of checking in with their human at the other end of the leash – continue encouraging this behavior to help strengthen the bond by offering treats.

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

Use routine to get Trinity comfortable in their new home. It will take a couple weeks for Trinity 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 Trinity's training will create a bond and a form of communication between two species who don't understand each other. The more positive experiences Trinity has with their owners, the more valuable you will become in high distracting situations.

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