



Tundra 349747: What to Expect

Tundra is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Tundra is the quietest most chill and gentle husky you've ever met. His ideal home is low traffic, quiet, and has easy access to a backyard. No running or walks required! Tundra was brought in as a stray, so his history is a mystery, but based on his behavior we think he has only experienced living in a backyard and this makes him fearful in new environments. Tundra has "Chicken Little Syndrome." During his time in the shelter Tundra has shown high fear and anxiety when attempts to walk him in open spaces – he would dart, pull, attempt to hide in bushes, balk, buck, and whine in attempts to flee back to the indoors.

During his time at OH we moved Tundra into a quiet space designed to help dogs decompress and feel comfortable in the chaos of a busy shelter in our Behavior Modification Program. He received dedicated hands on training and a consistent routine. Once adjusted to his new surroundings Tundra enjoyed walks on our wooded and shaded quiet path and running around playing fetch in the outdoor chip yard. While he was comfortable and confident in these spaces, any deviation outside of this routine caused significant distress. Tundra was telling us he likes his world small, predictable, and calm. We expect that Tundra will be overwhelmed by everything he encounters at first. During the critical first months in a new home, his 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!**

Tundra spent two weeks in foster care and his foster parent states he was quiet, respectful, calm, potty trained, and appropriately playful – the perfect roommate! After adjusting to being in a home, Tundra was a calm companion who preferred the quiet and predictable life of similar of an indoor cat. Once comfortable he loves to play with toys by himself or fetch with his handlers, enjoys gentle pets, and sleeps quietly. He would be the perfect companion for someone looking for a dog who requires minimal demands. He may never be a dog who enjoys walks around the neighborhood or leaving the house, but prefers being a respectful homebody. Tundra requires a home with a securely fenced in backyard and no small children. A pet meet is required before adoption to ensure a personality match.

Here's how to help Tundra 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.

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

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

Take Tundra outside on leash. Even if you have a fenced yard, please do not let Tundra out alone. They need time to feel comfortable and safe in a new space and your presence is a reassurance and can help him map out his new home.

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

Don't take Tundra 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.). He prefers the safety of being in his home and yard over walks.

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.

Behavioral Medication for your new dog

This dog has been prescribed one or more medications to help reduce anxiety and impulsivity during their time in the shelter. You may be provided with a supply of this dog's medication(s) along with specific dosing instructions at the time of adoption. We would recommend that you continue giving this medication for at least the first 6 months after adoption to help reduce stress that may be associated with this dog making a smooth transition into your home. In order to avoid any adverse side effects (including behavioral and systemic) please do not abruptly stop administering these medications or discontinue use without consulting your veterinarian. When it appears time to stop giving your dog these medications, please contact your veterinarian for an appropriate protocol to make sure you have enough medication to allow for a gradual weaning off process. Please do not substitute other supplements or medications (including your own prescriptions) without consulting a veterinary professional.

During this process, please watch for any signs of worsening fear or anxiety. If the dog appears to be getting worse during the weaning off process, contact your veterinarian as longer treatment or a different combination of medications may be needed. Remember that successful behavioral rehabilitation often relies on a combination of pharmaceutical therapy as well as various training modalities.

We're here to help!

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