



George 355098: What to Expect

George is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. George is a sweet and lanky adolescent dog that is ready to settle down with a family of his own! He loves romping around the yard with other friendly dogs, sniffing around on walks, and playing with stuffies. George comes to Oregon Humane from a county shelter, where the hustle and bustle of the shelter overwhelmed him. This overwhelm manifested as shying away from handlers, trembling, and looking for exits to avoid these stressful situations. Moving George into the Behavior Modification program has allowed George time to decompress in a calmer environment, and for us to introduce these new situations to George in a safe and controlled manner. By pairing these new experiences with positive rewards (like food, play, and praise) we can help George look forward to learning and exploring the world around him. He loves to learn and would do best in a home with dedicated adopters who are willing and able to continue using the same positive reinforcement-based training methods we've had success with at OH!

As George becomes more comfortable and confident in his surroundings, more of his silly and excitable puppy energy comes out. When excited, George can become mouthy and lightly grab onto loose fitting clothing and jump on his handlers for attention. George responds very well when alternate behaviors, like sitting and keeping all four paws on the ground, are expected and rewarded. He would love to take a basic manners class with his adopters to expand upon this knowledge base!

During his time in the Behavior Modification program, we've introduced George to multiple dogs to gauge his interest in social interaction with other dogs. While George is very happy to meet and play with new dogs, he tends to rush into his introductions and could overwhelm a less confident dog. To ensure that George has positive experiences with other dogs and can polish up these social skills, dog parks and other situations with uncontrolled introductions may not be the best fit for George. Rather, playdates and outings with friendly, confident, and known dogs can continue to give George positive social experiences.

Here's how to help George 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 George 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.

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

George needs daily exercise to reduce stress. George 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.

Practice crate training. Start by feeding meals in a wire crate and work your way up from there. It will be in your best interest to **slowly** increase time in the crate, so they view it as a safe, comfortable spot. When you cannot monitor your dog in the home, allow them some time to settle and relax in the crate.

“Puppy proof” your home and practice tether training to prevent them from getting into puppy/adolescent trouble. When home have George on leash, attached to you or tethered to a large piece of furniture as you go about your daily routine. This will help with potty training, bonding, and creating boundaries within the home. Let George drag the leash around the house or yard from time to time to simulate “freedom”, but do not let them off leash until they can 100% be trusted not to get into things they shouldn’t. This could take up to a few weeks. Crate them when you cannot watch them. This will ensure their puppy curiosity doesn’t get them into any trouble. You will have long lasting success if you follow this method.

Take a training class. George 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/>).

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