



Oskar 340820: What to Expect

Oskar is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Oskar is a goofy and sweet young dog with the best underbite! He loves playing with other dogs, chasing around after toys, and snuggling up on the couch to watch some TV. This handsome gentleman comes to Oregon Humane from a local county shelter, where the hustle and bustle of shelter life was overwhelming for Oskar. This overwhelm manifested as overstimulated behaviors, like jumping and grabbing onto his leash and loose-fitting clothing on handlers.

Bringing Oskar into the Behavior Modification program has allowed us to work with him and introduce new skills like sitting and waiting at doors and keeping all four paws on the ground while meeting people to help him navigate these high excitement situations. With proper direction and guidance from his handlers, Oskar has made great progress and continues to learn how to navigate his big, excitable feelings! He'll do best in a home with patient adopters that are ready to continue working with the same positive reinforcement-based training methods we've had success here at OH!

During his time in the Behavior Modification program, we've introduced Oskar to multiple dogs to gauge his interest in playing with other dogs. Oskar loves other dogs! He can be the life of the party and loves to run and wrestle around the play yards. With other dogs bringing him so much joy, Oskar can rush into social situations, even trying to pull his handler forward to greet dogs he sees out and about on walks. We've worked with Oskar to reward checking in with handlers and calm behavior around other dogs more valuable

Here's how to help Oskar settle in during your first months together:

If you're having people over, put Oskar 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 Oskar to sit before being pet so they're rewarded for keeping 4 feet on the floor.

Oskar needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Oskar 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.

Work on having Oskar settle on a mat and gently praise them for lying down. If they get up to pace, call them back and use a treat to lure them into a down again. If Oskar is on leash, you can hold them with approximately 4 feet of leash and wait until they offer a settle by lying down. Softly praise and treat when they do this.

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 Oskar 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 Oskar 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. Oskar 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 is an emergency, give your dog plenty of time to bond to you before taking them to your vet. Oskar 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 Oskar to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Oskar, 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!