



Crowley 356736: What to Expect

Crowley is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Crowley is the most handsome dog you're ever going to meet. Super model looks and a chill demeanor, means he's a great wingman for meeting new people and to be the new content for your social media pages. Crowley can be a calm and relaxed dog in the home, content to chill out and follow you around. When on walks in quiet neighborhoods, he's a loose leash walker who enjoys a good sniffari. During his time at OH, being surrounded by other barking dogs has manifested some reactivity in Crowley at the sight of other dogs. When walking by their kennels or along a fence, he gives big German Shepherd barks at dogs on the other side. When he sees other dogs while out on walks, he barks at the sight of them. We've been working with Crowley to disengage when he sees other dogs and engage with his handler to earn a reward. Barking feels good to dogs, and the behavior is inherently rewarding. Redirecting his attention back to the handler and rewarding with a tasty treat while continuing to move around, gives Crowley something else to focus on.

During his time at OH, Crowley has had the opportunity to be introduced to multiple dogs to gauge his interest in being social. He has had mixed interactions with other dogs and may not be a match for every canine companion. When greeting other dogs, he can be somewhat stiff in his approach and tends to boop them with his nose. While some dogs may find this behavior impolite or off-putting, others may not mind it at all. Crowley would do best avoiding dog parks and other unpredictable, difficult-to-manage environments. Instead, structured playdates with familiar, tolerant dogs who have a similar play style would be a better fit for him. He can develop successful friendships with certain dogs, but compatibility will depend on the individual dog and a pet meet with any resident dog is required prior to adoption.

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

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

Patience will come in handy for you. Crowley responds best to positive reinforcement and reward-based training. They will need an understanding, calm owner who has the time and desire to work on helping them learn to live in a home. Crowley will pay you back by supplying love and enthusiasm!

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

Crowley needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Crowley 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 Crowley 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 Crowley 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. Crowley 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/>).

Practice “Leave it.” Crowley may bark and lunge if they see other dogs out on a walk. When a dog is sighted, **before** they start barking, say “leave it.” When they turn to look at you, reward with praise and a treat and walk away from the trigger. Distance is calming.

Skip the dog park. Don’t take Crowley to busy places where they will have lots of uncontrolled interactions with people or other dogs (such as Saturday Market, dog parks, coffee shops, etc.). Crowley has shown us they don’t have an interest in being around other dogs/people. Taking leashed hikes to the river, playing in the backyard, or to places not frequented by many other dogs will allow for exercise, but keep Crowley calm and engaged with you.

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