



Papi 357881: What to Expect

Papi is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Papi is a country boy learning how to settle into urban living. The sights and sounds of the city are new experiences for him to adjust to, and he handles them apprehensively and with quiet curiosity. He can be slow to warm up to new people and places by choosing to observe before moving closer for pets and isn't interested in treats until he's really comfortable. Once he's had a chance to decompress and trust his handlers, he's incredibly affectionate, playful, and curious. Papi enjoys going for walks, playing with tennis balls, and especially romping around with other dog friends. He would do well in a quiet low traffic home away from the hustle and bustle of a busy downtown like neighborhood. He has experience living with another dog and would love to soak up all the attention for himself, or have a new canine sibling who is just as playful as he is. A pet meet is required before adoption to ensure compatibility.

When uncomfortable Papi will avoid interactions, dart at the end of the leash in an attempt to flee, and choose to hide under furniture or bushes. His future family should take it slow with introducing Papi to his new world, allowing him to explore as he feels comfortable. Taking it slow in the beginning will help build trust in the relationship and form a stronger bond long term. When out on walks, advocating for Papi's space by reading his body language and letting others know he's not feeling up to interacting with new people. We expect that Papi will be overwhelmed by everything they encounter at first. During the critical first months in a new home, their 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!**

Here's how to help Papi 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 Papi is not comfortable with strange people and doesn't enjoy meeting strangers while on their walk. Distance is calming.

Use routine to get Papi comfortable in their new home. It will take up to a couple weeks for Papi 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. Papi 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. Papi will pay you back by supplying love and enthusiasm!

Let them drag a leash attached to their collar for the first week or two inside and outside the home. Fast movements are startling, and it will take time for them to be okay with you approaching and removing the leash. If you go slow at the beginning, you'll build a trusting relationship. Treats always help!

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

Papi needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Papi loves to go for runs, walks, play fetch, and play with other dogs. Giving your dog a healthy outlet for some of their energy will help them settle during calm hours at home.

Don't take Papi 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.).

“Puppy proof” your home and practice tether training to prevent them from getting into puppy/adolescent trouble. When home have Papi 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 Papi 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.

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