Frankie 346124: What to Expect

Frankie is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Frankie is a sweet, affectionate, and playful dog who just adores people. His crooked little tail will brighten your day with it's never ending wags of adoration when looking into your eyes filled with love. While Frankie is social and confident inside the home, he really struggles outside due to an intense fear of loud industrial noises from trucks, cars, airplanes, and the like. When frightened Frankie will panic on leash, dart in an attempt to escape, alligator roll, and drag you back to the house. If you don't have a good grip on that leash or a securely fit collar, he could easily escape and end up loose, though he does tend to head right back home. We expect that Frankie 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!**

At times when comfortable outside with little to no noise, Frankie can enjoy his walks with sniffing and minimal pulling. He will do best in a calm low traffic home and neighborhood away from the hustle and bustle of any major streets. Due to his fear of noises while outside, we feel Frankie would do best with quick and easy access to a fenced in outdoor space so he can relieve himself easily and exercise as needed. Frankie enjoys the company of other confident and social dogs, and their presence can help boost Frankie's confidence when outdoors. He will follow their lead and trust their judgement in most situations. While a dog in the home is not required, we feel it would be a great benefit or to have frequent visits from canine pals. A pet meet is required before adoption to ensure personality compatibility.

Here's how to help Frankie 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.

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

Allow for time to build trust. Always let Frankie decide if they're comfortable outside. Don't force interactions. As they grow more comfortable, you will see Frankie decide that they enjoy spending time with you by following you and/or your resident dog around.

Supervise your dog outside. Even if you have a fenced yard, please do not let Frankie out alone. They are easily frightened and could easily hide under your deck or a bush - or slip through a gap in your fence! They need some time to build confidence to go on longer excursions in even the quietest of neighborhoods.

Wait to take walks. Frankie will need time to bond with you before you start taking them for walks. Give them a couple of weeks to get to know you and their new home, then practice walking around your yard before trying a walk around the block. Frankie will do best walking alongside a confident canine companion. They're already doing

a great job of checking in with their human at the other end of the leash – continue encouraging this behavior to help strengthen the bond by offering treats.

Skip the dog park. Don't take Frankie 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.). Frankie 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 loud vehicles will allow for exercise, but keep Frankie 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 Frankie to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Frankie, 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!

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.