Jojo 356650: What to Expect

Jojo is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Jojo is a silly and sweet pug that's sure to brighten your grey PNW days! He loves sampling new treats, going for casually paced sniffy walks, and butt scratches. He even does a little dance with his back end when you hit the right spot! Jojo comes to OH through our Second Chance program from a shelter in California, and his history is a mystery to us prior to coming into the shelter system. Jojo was adopted from OH shortly after his transfer from California but was returned due to incompatibilities with this adopter's lifestyle and home set up. It was noted that Jojo was not comfortable with strangers in the home, this behavior manifesting as growling, showing teeth, and nipping at ankles. He's also shown sensitivity to being handled with both medical style handling and leashing, opting to move away or growl to express his discomfort. During his time in the Behavior Modification program, we've worked with Jojo to associate new people with something positive, like going for walks or treats. Jojo has made great progress with us in the shelter and will allow multiple people in the same space as him without feeling like he needs to guard his handler. Future adopters will need to be ready to give Jojo ample time to settle into his new home and his new routine and continue to use the same positive reinforcement-based training we've had success with here at OH. Jojo will do best in a quiet, low traffic home without young children.

During his time in the shelter, we've introduced Jojo to multiple dogs to gauge his interest in interacting socially with other dogs. When meeting dogs in the shelter, Jojo has shown reluctance and avoidance to meet other dogs, even attempting to hide behind handlers' legs. When this avoidance does not work Jojo will bark at other dogs, attempting to offensively communicate this discomfort. With this information, it's in Jojo's best interest to go into a home without other dogs.

Here's how to help Jojo 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 Jojo 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 Jojo comfortable in their new home. It will take a couple weeks for Jojo 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. Jojo 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. Jojo will pay you back by supplying love and enthusiasm!

Limit introductions to new people. Take your time to get to know Jojo before introducing them to someone new. They may need to meet a new person multiple times before feeling comfortable with strangers. Treats and allowing Jojo to approach as they feel comfortable will be best. New people should just completely ignore Jojo at first – playing hard to get is the way to their heart.

When you have people over, **it's okay to put Jojo in another room.** If you'd like Jojo to meet a guest, put them on a leash and give them time to adjust before allowing your guest to pet. Let it be Jojo's choice to go to them for pets or hang back and watch. Crowding Jojo or forcing them to interact can make fearful behavior worse.

Skip the dog park. Don't take Jojo 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.). Jojo 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 Jojo calm and engaged with you.

Don't take Jojo 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.).

Visiting the Vet: Unless it's an emergency, give your dog plenty of time to bond to you before taking them to your vet.
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 Jojo to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Jojo, 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!