



## Rowan: What to Expect

**Rowan is a sweet but sensitive boy who loves to play.** He needs to find an adult-only home with a dog-experienced person who has the time, energy and patience to continue with his training. Rowan gets very excited and would struggle in a home with a lot of hustle and bustle or one with children. He really needs a secure fenced yard in a quiet setting where he can play with toys with you.

He will **not** be able to go to the dog park, and leash walks are stressful as he is reactive to cars, people, and dogs. So, until you have done some training, and he has had time to bond with you, playtime in your house and yard will help him be successful.

### **Here's how to help Rowan during your first months together:**

**Use positive reinforcement and reward-based training methods.** When training, use treats, squeaky toys or tennis balls - depending on which he responds to best in your home. Anything negative or forceful will cause his excitement level to increase and will ultimately be counterproductive for both of you.

**Give him ample time to settle into your home.** Develop a predictable daily schedule to help him acclimate to your house. Take your time to get to know him before introducing him to someone new. He can get worried about new people, so try to keep life calm and boring for a while.

**Avoid trying to introduce Rowan to other dogs.** Rowan is very reactive when he sees other dogs so playtime in your yard or walks in very quiet areas at quiet times will be best. Rowan enjoys playing by himself too – which is perfect: you can let Rowan play alone with his toys!

Getting to know one dog, over time, may help Rowan learn to trust the dog and end up with them tolerating or being friends. Please reach out to us for help if you wish to do this.

**Practice crate training.** Start by feeding Rowan meals in his crate and work your way up from there. The crate should become a very calm and safe place which you can use if guests come over or if you take him on vacation.

**Use a walking tool for walks.** We have been training with Rowan at OHS and will give you what he wears on walks here, but let him settle in your home and yard for a few days before you try to take him out. If you live in a neighborhood where you will see dogs on your walks, be sure to bring his favorite high value treats or toys with you so you can help him remain calm and not overreact when he sees a dog.

**Practice “Leave It.”** Rowan can get mouthy when he's worked up and excited. If he sees another dog on a walk, say “leave it” and immediately reward him with his favorite treat for stopping and looking at you. Playing game of fetch **before** you take a walk can help reduce his mouthy/overexcited behavior on leash.

**No dog parks!** Don't take Rowan to places where he will have lots of uncontrolled interactions with people or other dogs (such as Saturday Market, off-leash dog parks, coffee shops, Springwater corridor, busy streets etc.). These environments are way too overwhelming for him and will cause his behavior to become worse. He is reactive to cars, bicycles, fast movements and all these things trigger his lunge response, which sets his training back. Please keep his world small and calm.

**Be his advocate.** It's okay to ask someone to stop or prevent a person from coming up to say hi to your dog. Watch his body language and help him out of situations if he appears stressed or starts to get amped up.

**Visiting the vet:** Unless it's an emergency, give Rowan plenty of time to bond with you before taking him to your vet. Start with positive visits just for treats. Vet visits will more than likely be scary but if he already trusts you, your presence may help him feel more comfortable.

Try using **Adaptil (Dog Appeasing Pheromone)** or **Rescue Remedy by Bach Flower Essences**. These products can help dogs settle in new environments by easing the stress associated with change.

**Patience will come in handy for you.** Rowan is a dog who needs an experienced, calm owner who has the time and desire to work with him. He will pay you back by supplying love and enthusiasm!

### **We're here to help!**

We want Rowan to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via phone and email. Contact our Behavior Help Line at **(503) 416-2983**. One-on-one training consultations are also available.  
[www.oregonhumane.org/training](http://www.oregonhumane.org/training)

Please keep in touch so we can continue to help you now and in the future. Please reach out if you have any 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!