



Eloise 299585: What to Expect

Eloise is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Eloise is a very sweet puppy that loves her people! Once she's comfortable, she wants nothing more than to crawl into your lap for snuggles and she'd make a fantastic rainy day reading buddy. Eloise was surrendered to our Salem campus, where she received treatment and surgery for entropion eyelids. Upon entering the shelter system, Eloise was noted to be a very fearful puppy that would shy away from people, dogs, and new experiences. When Eloise is feeling insecure and fearful around other dogs, her go to method to deal with these triggers is to act scarier than what's scaring her. This can look like growling, lunging, or snapping at other dogs. All of these are a very clear ways for Eloise to communicate that she wants to be left alone by dogs. We've been successful pairing these triggers with something positive for Eloise (like treats or praise), or by helping her make the choice to create distance by moving away from the scary thing. Eloise is looking for trust that her handlers will keep her safe from unknown dogs. Eloise will need an adopter that is comfortable and confident in advocating for her and her personal space, and that can dedicate training to furthering her confidence around other dogs. Because of this we believe Eloise will do best as the only pet in the home.

Eloise is still learning how to navigate the world and find comfort in her family and trust in the uncomfortable. When in spaces Eloise is uncomfortable, like outdoors in a yard or on a walk, she will pace, pant, and exit search. Due to this level of discomfort Eloise will not do well in a home or neighborhood with lots of hustle and bustle, as that could easily overwhelm her. Eloise is a flighty and nervous dog and needs an adult only home with small children as their unpredictable and quick movements could easily frighten her.

When comfortable Eloise will crawl into your lap for the snuggliest of cuddles, learns new behaviors through training, and is playful with toys. When excited she often leaps into the air like a salmon migrating towards their breeding grounds bursting with joy and happiness. We expect that [NAME] 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 Eloise 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 toward leaving them alone, unsecured, once they've had the chance to settle into your home and you know with certainty, they will be comfortable.

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 [NAME] 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.

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!

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

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

Use treats and toys to build trust. Maintaining and continuing [NAME]'s training will create a bond and a form of communication between two species who don't understand each other. The more positive experiences Eloise has with his owners, the more valuable you will become in high distracting situations.

"Puppy proof" your home and practice tether training to prevent them from getting into puppy/adolescent trouble. When home have [NAME] 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 [NAME] 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 [NAME] 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 [NAME] outside on leash. Even if you have a fenced yard, please do not let [NAME] out alone. They are so small, that they could easily hide under your deck or a bush - or slip through a gap in your fence! [NAME] does like to go for walks and go outside to potty, but needs some time to figure out the routine before being trusted off leash.

Patience will come in handy for you. [NAME] 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. [NAME] will pay you back by supplying love and enthusiasm!

Don't take [NAME] 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. 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.

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.

We're here to help!

We want Eloise to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Eloise, we can also set up a free one-on-one consultation. For questions or to schedule an appointment, contact Annika at **(503) 285-7722 ex 422** 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!