



Simon 288564: What to Expect

Simon is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Simon is an incredibly smart, sweet, and goofy puppy! It takes him some time to warm up to new people, places, and things, but once he does, he is often found getting silly puppy zoomies in the yard or leaning into people for pets. Prior to coming to OHS, Simon was an outside only dog with his siblings. Growing up isolated, Simon's key socialization period was confined to a yard, which greatly impacted his introduction to the world. The unknown can be intimidating and even scary for Simon, and he can respond with apprehension and avoidance to new, scary experiences. Simon's future adopters will need to continue using reward-based training to further give Simon positive experiences and expand his world. Simon is a very eager student; he picks up on training quickly and is very motivated to learn!

Being a big adolescent puppy Simon is learning how to regulate his emotions in a way that is conducive to living alongside humans in a pet home. Like most puppies his age when excited Simon likes to jump up on humans and if overstimulated more will jump up and grab onto loose fitting clothes, the leash, or purses/bags. He is a curious puppy but still insecure with the world and needs an owner who can be an advocate for his socialization and space. Bringing a puppy everywhere and letting everyone interact with your dog can have the opposite intended effect of wanting a secure and socialized dog. This type of introduction to the world can create distrust, anxiety, and/or over arousal in place of a confident and neutral dog. We want our dogs to view people, animals, and moving items of the world as trees or furniture, neither positive nor negative, but as a neutral sight. We've been successful asking Simon to sit before pets, leashing, and walking through doors. We've introduced treats to his leashed walks so he can be rewarded for engaging with the handler and pairing a positive reward with the uncertainty of the world. When people ask to pet Simon, we have them offer him a treat, like tossing it on the ground to him, rather than force interactions. This has greatly boosted his confidence with his handlers.

We think Simon would do best in a home with a dog experienced owner who intends to continue Simon's training and socialization at a pace that he is comfortable with. In a previous home where Simon was being introduced quickly to neighbors and friends, Simon had shown behaviors that he was uncomfortable such as resource guarding from other dogs & people over food, snapping at small children who were running around him, and jumping up and grabbing onto loose fitting clothes when attempting to initiate play. Because of this, we do not think Simon would do well in a busy home with a lot of hustle and bustle or one with children. We have successfully introduced Simon to other dogs while at the shelter, but feel Simon would feel most comfortable being the only dog in the home until he learns to relax and trust his humans.

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

We expect that Simon 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!

If you're having people over, put Simon on leash so they learn to not dart out the front door or jump all over people. Once everyone is sitting down and calm you can drop the leash and allow your dog to decide if they want to go say hi to your guests. Ensure your guests ask Simon to sit before being pet so they're rewarded for keeping 4 feet on the floor.

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

Work on having Simon settle on a mat and gently praise them for lying down. If they get up to pace, call them back and use a treat to lure them into a down again. If Simon is on leash, you can hold them with approximately 4 feet of leash and wait until they offer a settle by lying down. Softly praise and treat when they do this.

Skip the dog park. Don't take Simon 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.). Taking leashed hikes to the river or playing in the backyard will allow for exercise but keep Simon calm and engaged with you.

Practice crate training. Start by feeding meals in a wire crate and work your way up from there. It will be in your best interest to **slowly** increase time in the crate, so they view it as a safe, comfortable spot. When you cannot monitor your dog in the home, allow them some time to settle and relax in the crate.

"Puppy proof" your home and practice tether training to prevent them from getting into puppy/adolescent trouble. When home have Simon 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 Simon 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 Simon 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 a training class. Simon would benefit from taking some training classes with their new owners and would love to learn more alongside their family in a training class. Training classes help strengthen the bond between owner and dog by creating clear and precise communication so there are no misunderstandings. You can find more info about our training classes on our website at (<https://www.oregonhumane.org/training/training-at-ohs/>).

Visiting the Vet: Unless it is an emergency, give your dog plenty of time to bond to you before taking them to your vet. Simon does very well at the vet, they handle meeting new being well. The vet can still be a scary place. Bringing tasty treats like cheese and/or hot dogs can help make the experience more pleasant.

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 Simon to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Simon, we can also set up a free one-on-one consultation. For questions or to schedule an appointment, contact Annika at **(503) 802-6713** or annikah@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!