



Zulius 286501: What to Expect

Zulius is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Zulius is an incredibly smart, loving, and energetic puppy! Zulius is overflowing with happy; he likes to learn, loves playing with toys, adores wrestling with his dog friends, and enjoys snuggling with his human friends. He would make an excellent adventure buddy; from hiking and camping to beach trips and everything in between! While Zulius likes to meet new friends, both human and canine, he can become overexcited when meeting someone new and when excited Zulius likes to jump up on humans and if overstimulated more will jump up and grab onto loose fitting clothes, the leash, or purses/bags. We've been successful asking Zulius to sit for leashing and before receiving pets. Zulius is still learning how to interact with the world and trust that his humans have his best interests in mind, and occasionally will bark at strangers while on a walk. We've been successful using treats and asking Zulius to "leave it" to pair positive rewards with scary experiences.

In a previous home, Zulius constantly had his things taken from him, by both adults and children, this frustrated Zulius and the only way he knew to communicate that, was to snap at the people when this happened. During a couple of these incidents, Zulius did make contact, breaking skin with his teeth. We have not seen this behavior from Zulius during his time at OHS and have been successful trading him for something of equal value or asking him to sit & wait before picking up his toys. Zulius will do best in a home with older children or teenagers, who can respect his space and understand not to take things from him. Zulius needs time to trust that his humans have his best interest in mind and will respect his boundaries. His future adopters will need to be prepared to continuing Zulius' training using the same positive reinforcement methods we use here at OHS and be dedicated to making trades for items he deems high value, as this effective training and management tool will help prevent further accidents.

Prior to coming to OHS, Zulius didn't have much socialization and experience playing appropriately with other dogs; he tends to barrel in and may miss the signals of other dogs. During his time with us at OHS, we've been successful introducing him to and having him play with, well-matched adult play mates. Developmentally, Zulius is in his teenage years and is learning how to appropriately interact with the world, both with humans, wildlife, and other dogs. As Zulius grows to ensure he continues to be a proper gentleman, he would do best on playdates with known dogs, so he can continue his socialization.

Here's how to help Zulius 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 Zulius 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.

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

If you're having people over, put Zulius 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 Zulius to sit before being pet so they're rewarded for keeping 4 feet on the floor.

Zulius needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Zulius 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 Zulius 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 Zulius 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.

Walk Zulus on an appropriate walking tool. We have been using a special head halter, called a transitional leash, to help guide Zulus to walk nicely on leash with little to no pulling.

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 Zulus 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 Zulus 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 Zulus 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. Zulus 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. Zulus 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 Zulus to be successful in your home. We’re available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Zulus, 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!