



Juice 298786: What to Expect

Juice is a 2-year-old Elkhound mix who is looking for the right family who fit his needs. Juice is active, affectionate, and motivated to learn through treat training. Sometimes we think Juice can understand human speech, as he catches onto learning new things so quickly it's like he understands us or came pre-loaded with all the dog training software. So far Juice already knows how to sit, stay, lay down, walk nicely on leash, leave it, drop it, and go to bed. He is continuing to work on crate training, as well as being left home alone. Juice, like most Northern breeds, struggles with isolation and when he is left alone without having his needs met, he becomes distressed and will vocalize with barking and howling. He would not do well in a living situation where neighbors could pose noise complaints if he is left alone often. He would thrive in a home with someone who works a hybrid schedule, works from home, or could allow Juice to come to work with them. As Juice settles and decompresses into his new home, Juice could become comfortable with being left alone for longer periods of time but will need time and practice to get to that point of comfort.

Juice is incredibly friendly, and he's never met a stranger, he will roll over and show his belly to make new friends with everyone. When excited Juice can jump in excitement and if overstimulated more, will grab on to loose fitting clothes, purses, and the leash. We've been successful telling Juice to "leave it" and directing his attention into a more acceptable behavior such as sitting or laying down for pets. In a previous home Juice has broken skin with his teeth when he got overly excited during play with his elderly owner who claimed to have thin skin. Having toys on hand to put into Juice's mouth to direct his overly excited energy onto is a great tool to teach Juice how to play with people appropriately and he loves to play with toys. He does not like baths or getting wet.

Juice has a high prey drive towards small animals such as cats or wildlife like voles, squirrels, raccoons, and rabbits. If he sees wildlife he pulls towards them on leash, if loose in a yard he will chase and has successfully darted through open doors to get to chase wildlife. He would not do well in a home with small animals like cats or to take off leash hikes in the wilderness. When walking him, we've been successful asking him to "leave it" when he sights bunnies, redirecting his focus back to us and rewarding him with treats for making good decisions. He will need owners who will keep a tight grip on the leash and not allow him to practice chasing wildlife

Here's how to help Juice settle in during your first months together:

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

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.

Juice needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Juice 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.

"Puppy proof" your home and practice tether training to prevent them from getting into puppy/adolescent trouble. When home have Juice 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 Juice 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 Juice 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.

Practice "Leave it." Juice may bark and lunge if they see other dogs out on a walk. When a dog is sighted, **before** they start barking, say "leave it." When they turn to look at you, reward with praise and a treat and walk away from the trigger. Distance is calming.

Work on having Juice settle on a mat, dog bed, or cot 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 Juice 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 Juice 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, playing in the backyard, or scheduled play dates with known dogs will allow for exercise, but keep Juice calm and engaged with you.

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

Visiting the Vet: Unless it is an emergency, give your dog plenty of time to bond to you before taking them to your vet. Juice does very well at the vet, they handle meeting new people 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 Juice to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via phone. Please call our Behavior Helpline if you have any questions regarding Juice's behavior in home at: **503-416-2983**.

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!