



## Felix 297402: What to Expect

**Felix is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home.** True to the husky breed, Felix is always up for an adventure! He'd love to join you on a hike, trips to the beach, runs, or for a game of fetch in the yard. Felix is friendly with other people, comfortable and confident with other dogs, and he loves attention through affection. Felix was originally found as a stray, wandering the streets with another dog. It's unknown how he ended up lost, but we can assume he escaped from the home or yard to joy ride around the neighborhood, as under stimulated huskies are wanting to do. Potential adopters will need to be prepared to keep Felix safe with a securely fenced yard of 6 feet or taller or being supervised while outside off leash. Huskies tend to be curious and independent dogs, and Felix is no exception, but unlike other huskies he can struggle to be left alone in confined spaces. Felix has learned to exhibit his discomfort through vocalizing with howling, yipping, and attempts to roam. Due to this we don't think Felix would be a good fit for apartments where his noise levels could become a problem for neighbors. When Felix is comfortable, he is affectionate, playful, and engaged. He is very motivated to learn for treats and catches on to new training quickly, he already knows sit, down, leave it, and walks nicely on leash.

Felix can be an easily excitable adolescent dog who is still learning his manners. Like most adolescent dogs, when excited, Felix likes to jump up onto his handlers, and if overstimulated further, he will use his mouth to grab onto loose fitting clothing, the leash, and/or bags/purses. During these excited moments on a run or off leash running around a yard, Felix has jumped on his handler and used his mouth to grab onto the person leaving tooth scrapes and bruises. We've been successful in providing appropriate outlets for his energy and using training techniques to keep four paws on the ground and his mouth to toys. Felix would do well in a home with a family will continue using the same positive reinforcement techniques we've been successful using at OHS. He will need to learn what are and aren't dog toys and how to exist cohesively alongside his new family. Taking a training course with a professional dog trainer will help set both Felix and his new owners up for the best success in understanding each other. Due to his behavior we do not think he would do well in a home with children or small animals likes cats.

### **Here's how to help Felix settle in during your first months together:**

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

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

**Felix needs daily exercise to reduce stress.** Felix 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 Felix 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 Felix 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.

**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.

**Skip the dog park.** Don't take Felix 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 to places not frequented by many other dogs will allow for exercise, but keep Felix calm and engaged with you.

**“Puppy proof” your home and practice tether training** to prevent them from getting into puppy/adolescent trouble. When home have Felix 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 Felix 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 Felix 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.** Felix 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. Felix 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.

### **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 Felix to be successful in your home. We’re available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Felix, 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](mailto: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!