



Lizard 300677: What to Expect

Lizard is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Lizard is an excited and active young dog! He loves going for runs, romping with toys in the yard, and wrestling with his dog friends! Lizard is a big dog with a lot of big feelings, his heart is bursting with happiness. While Lizard does like to be pet, he's not an overly cuddly dog, and he's not shy about telling you when he's had enough. He's learned that by using his mouth, he's able to stop his handlers from engaging with him in ways he dislikes or finds uncomfortable, such as putting on or taking off walking gear, or when leaving the play yard. During one instance, when a handler was putting Lizard back in his kennel after a walk, he became frustrated and used his mouth to prevent them from taking the leash off, breaking skin on their hand with his tooth. When Lizard gets excited or frustrated, he may jump up, and if overstimulated further may grab onto the leash, loose fitting clothing, or bags/purses. During his time at OHS we've been successful asking him to sit and wait for leashing or before throwing toys in the yard. Lizard is easily motivated by treats and catches onto learning new things quickly. He will need a patient owner who doesn't rush him and can calmly continue to help him learn new things using the same positive reinforcement-based techniques we use here at OHS. Because of his excitement and handling sensitivities, Lizard is not a match for a home with cats or small children. We believe Lizard could do well living with another dog of similar playstyle, but he may be too much for small, geriatric, or "chill" dogs. A pet meet is required to ensure dogs are a good match in personality and behavior.

Lizard's history is a mystery; he was found wandering the streets as a stray before being transferred to OHS through our Second Chance Program. 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 Lizard safe, he is not required to have a home with a yard, but if so, a securely fenced yard of 6 feet or taller or someone outside with him to provide supervision when he's outside off leash. Lizards really loves to chase wildlife and small animals like birds, cats, rabbits, and squirrels, keeping a tight grip on the leash is a must.

Like most Huskies, Lizard tends to be more curious and independent dog, but unlike other huskies he can struggle to be left alone in confined spaces. Lizard has learned to exhibit his discomfort through vocalizing, barking, and creating noises with things he finds around him, such as pawing at his kennel door. Due to this we don't think Lizard would be a good choice for homes that share walls where his noise levels could become a problem for neighbors, unless the potential adopter has a plan in place, such as working from home or opposite work schedules. Lizard thrives in an environment with attention and active owners who can anticipate his enrichment needs, in turn he will supply love and enthusiasm.

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

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

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

Lizard needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Lizard 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.

Skip the dog park. Don't take Lizard 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 Lizard calm and engaged with you.

Work on having Lizard 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 Lizard 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.

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

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 Lizard to be successful in your home. We’re available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Lizard, we can also set up a free one-on-one consultation. For questions or to schedule an appointment, contact us 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!