



Claudius 306359: What to Expect

Claudius is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Claudius is an affectionate and playful pup who loves to chase toys, follow you around, explore new spaces, and play with other dogs! When comfortable he tackles new obstacles curiously and confidently, following his handler around trustingly. When uncomfortable, Claudius can be a nervous dog who will slink and shy away from frightening things or people. He is most nervous when meeting new people for the first time, especially if he feels trapped, he can growl, stare, and if pressured further could snap and bite. Claudius is his most confident self when he is around other social and confident dogs, easily following suit taking treats from new friends and tackling new environments with ease. Once Claudius has had an opportunity to meet someone new once or twice, he becomes more comfortable and acts as your normal curious puppy. He is not the type of dog that would enjoy going to busy places with his owners like patios, farmer's markets, or busy downtown areas where he would have a lot of uncontrolled interactions with unknown people and dogs.

We believe Claudius being a young adolescent dog, he has plenty of room to grow into a more confident dog alongside his new family, if they're able to continue to use the same positive reinforcement techniques we use here at OHS. However, there is no guarantee that he will become a dog who shakes her nervous tendencies forever. He is very motivated to learn using treats to reinforce wanted behavior and building connections with people. He doesn't turn his nose up to a single treat or kibble! Claudius would do best in a low traffic home in a quiet neighborhood away from the hustle and bustle of a busy downtown neighborhood. A social resident dog could help boost Claudius's confidence more quickly as he adjusts to his new home, and a pet meet will need to take place prior to adoption. We think Claudius would do best in a home without small children as their fast unpredictable moments could frighten him. Dog experienced teenaged kids would find Claudius to be a joy to play with. We expect that Claudius 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!**

Here's how to help Claudius 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 Claudius is not comfortable with new 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.

Limit introductions to new people. Take your time to get to know Claudius before introducing them to someone new. They may need to meet a new person multiple times before feeling comfortable with strangers. Treats and allowing Claudius to approach as they feel comfortable will be best. New people should just completely ignore Claudius at first – playing hard to get is the way to their heart.

Let them drag a leash attached to their collar for the first week or two inside and outside the home. Fast movements are startling, and it will take time for them to be okay with you approaching and removing the leash. If you go slow at the beginning, you'll build a trusting relationship. Treats always help!

Don't take Claudius to busy places where they will have lots of uncontrolled interactions with people/dogs (such as Saturday Market, off-leash dog parks, coffee shops, walks down Hawthorne St., Home Depot, etc.).

Use treats and toys to build trust. Maintaining and continuing Claudius's training will create a bond and a form of communication between two species who don't understand each other. The more positive experiences Claudius has with their owners, the more valuable you will become in high distracting situations.

Use routine to get Claudius comfortable in their new home. It will take a couple weeks for Claudius 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. Claudius 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. Claudius will pay you back by supplying love and enthusiasm!

When you have people over, **it's okay to put Claudius in another room.** If you'd like Claudius to meet a guest, put them on a leash and give them time to adjust before allowing your guest to pet. Let it be Claudius's choice to go to them for pets or hang back and watch. Crowding Claudius or forcing them to interact can make fearful behavior worse.

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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 Claudius 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 Claudius 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 Claudius 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. Claudius 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.

We're here to help!

We want Claudius to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Claudius, 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.

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!