



## Albie 314581: What to Expect

**Albie is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home.** Albie is a playful, affectionate, curious, and energetic adolescent medium sized dog. He was transported to us from California through our Second Chance program, so his history is a mystery. During his time at OHS he displayed a lot of discomfort and fear with strangers while in his kennel. He would avoid people and move as far away as possible, if they continued toward him, he would stare, get stiff, and growl. Once out of his kennel Albie would shake off his nerves and become affectionate, playful, trusting, and curious, even with meeting new people and dogs. Once Albie is comfortable with you his behavior in the kennel also improves significantly, but he can be head shy and nervous with fast movements around his face. We think the feeling of being trapped without an exit and pursued by an unknown person caused him great stress which lead to attempting to create space with avoidance and growling. Once Albie knows you're a friend he will crawl into your lap for pets and play tug-o-war with a toy and he loves to go for his walks. Because of this, we feel Albie would do best in a home with older children who can regulate their emotions and respect the space Albie needs if he feels overwhelmed or trapped. Allowing Albie to come to you when he's ready, using treats and positive reinforcement, and never forcing a social interaction on Albie will help him build a long-lasting trusting relationship with his new family.

During his time at OHS we have introduced Albie to dogs of various size and temperament and Albie has had positive interactions with dogs as small as 5lbs and as large as 40lbs. He plays appropriately and reads signals from other dogs when they're feeling uncomfortable or are attempting to initiate play. We feel he could be matched into a home with a resident dog. A pet meet is required before adoption to ensure the dogs are comfortable with each other prior to adoption.

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

**Designate a "safe spot" in your home.** You can use a crate or taller baby gates to confine them to a smaller area where they have access to water, bed, and toys. When you are unable to supervise the dog, leave them in their safe spot. Slowly work toward leaving them alone, unsecured, once they've had the chance to settle into your home and you know with certainty, they will be comfortable.

**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. Unknown dogs and people can be frightening to a dog learning to trust their new family.

**Let them drag a leash attached to their collar** for the first week 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!

**Allow for time to build trust.** Always let Albie decide if they want to come closer to you. Don't force interactions. As they grow more comfortable, you will see Albie decide that they enjoy spending time with you by coming closer for pets, soliciting play, jumping next to you on the couch, and following your resident dog around.

**Limit introductions to new people.** Take your time to get to know Albie before introducing them to someone new. Treats and allowing Albie to approach as they feel comfortable will be best. New people should just completely ignore Albie at first – playing hard to get is the way to their heart.

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

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

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

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

**Work on having Albie 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 Albie 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.

**Visiting the Vet:** Unless it is an emergency, give your dog plenty of time to bond to you before taking them to your vet. Albie does 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 Albie to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Albie, we can also set up a free one-on-one consultation. For questions or to schedule an appointment, contact us at **(503) 285-1145** 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!