

## Axel - Frequently Asked Questions



**How old is Axel?** We think he's 3 to 4 years old.

**Where did he come from?** He came to us from a shelter, where he was scheduled to be euthanized.

**How long have you had him?** He's been in rescue almost 2 years.

**Why so long?** Because he doesn't get along with other dogs, we have been waiting for just the right home for him. Most people have another dog and want a dog that will get along with their dog.

**What would that home look like?** Ideally, it would be:

A calm home without people coming and going constantly

No other dogs living in the home (has lived successfully with dog-savvy cats)

An owner that likes a more independent dog (won't mind that Axel is not a snuggly Velcro dog)

Someone who is able to give Axel lots of exercise

Someone willing and able to work with Axel on a daily basis so he can keep making progress

**What are his problems?** Axel is asocial, meaning he doesn't connect quickly with humans. He's fearful of other dogs, and has some obsessive-compulsive tendencies.

**What's his history?** We don't know, there was no information about him at the shelter.

While in the shelter, he guarded a bucket that he was using as a toy. He's not showing guarding behavior now after working on that in foster care. We don't know if he was abused or suffered some kind of physical or neurological trauma in his past life.



**Will he improve?** We think he will continue to slowly get better if he's in the right situation. He has made progress during his time with us – he is more interactive, he's been working on obedience and impulse control (sitting before you throw the ball, etc).

**Will he ever be able to live with other dogs?**

We don't know. Right now he needs to be an only dog. That might change in the future with lots of care and training (we never say never!) but his adopter needs to be prepared for him to be an only dog for the rest of his life. If that changes over

time, that would be a nice plus.

**Would I be able to take him out in public?** Absolutely! He loves to go on walks, to cafes, to the beach. He needs to be on the leash and have his attention focused on you if other dogs are nearby, and other dogs should not get closer than about 6 feet.

**What happens if he gets too close to another dog?** Sometimes he will growl, sometimes he will fight. We believe this is because he is afraid of other dogs. Just exposing him to other dogs will not help – it will make him more scared and make his behavior worse.

**So how can he get better?** With the guidance of a trainer, Axel can learn new behavior, but it will be a slow process. The wrong kinds of experiences can set Axel back.

**Can I take him to the dog park?** No, Axel is not a dog park dog. Off leash dogs running up to him make his behavior worse and frighten him, and he most likely will end up in a fight.



**How would I get enough exercise for him then?** Axel's favorite thing in the world is playing fetch. Show him a tennis ball and you are his best friend. He also enjoys walks, jogging, and running around in your fenced yard. He can go hiking and to the beach (on a long lead).

**How would I deal with friends who come over with their dogs?** Axel would need to be kept separate. For example, he might be in a different room. He could be crated part of the time. He and the visiting dog(s) could alternate who is inside/outside. On walks, all the dogs would be

on leash, and Axel would be ahead or behind the others.

**What about when I go on vacation, can he be boarded?** Yes, Axel does fine at the boarding kennel, as long as he has his own cage/kennel.

**Tell me why Axel is in the Pointed Homeward program.** We are lucky to have people come forward from time to time to sponsor the adoption donation for certain dogs (usually dogs that have been in rescue a long time). Axel has a fairy dogmother who will pay his adoption donation, so that the adopter can use his/her funds towards training for Axel.

**Why would I want to adopt him?** He's a handsome athletic young dog who deserves a good life. If you have a soft spot in your heart, and don't mind a little work to give a dog a good home, he could be the one for you!