

Scooter's progress has been slow since the last update. This is not because of him, only the conditions we endure here at Hordee. Most of the time heat is the biggest issue.

The biggest change is Scooter's level of excitement! When people he is familiar with call him he starts spinning and jumping! He jumps but not on people or dogs only next to them! It's hard not to feel the joy of his happiness being a witness of his reactions!

Scoter no longer shows fear or apprehension when meeting new dogs or people. It's easy to notice his desire to be pet or play with other dogs.

He play bows and sends a variety of calming signals and messages with body movements.

Scoter continues to become more and more comfortable with new people and surroundings.

There are and always be

things that are different about Scooter that will have to be remembered and respected.

He is not the type of dog you can let run and play with children.

He is not the type of dog you can leave alone with another dog for long periods of time without a muzzle.

He requires leadership or "Alpha" owners that do not fear him. They can not:

Let Scooter go in/out of a door or gateway before them.

Allow Scooter to have his way when he whines or barks for something.

Feed Scooter from their plate or giving him people food.

Never letting Scooter take ownership of a bed, couch or anything by growling or snapping.

July 3<sup>rd</sup>: It's funny how when writing about Scooter something great happens!

Tonight was the first time I lifted Scooter into my lap while sitting up in my bed. I lifted him up into the air placed him in my lap letting him lay back with his head on my chest and calmly stay there! He was a little nervous because of approaching bad weather and maybe felt security laying against me. Either way it was a huge step forward! He continues laying in my lap as I'm writing this update.

Have I mentioned how much I love this dog?

I love that he's so different. He follows me when I'm away for more than 10 min.. He always finds me.

There are things that make Scooter lash out at times and require him to be muzzled.

⊗ When clipping Scooter's nails it's best to have him muzzled. Keep him standing between you and a wall, someone he trusts holding his leash, holding his head, petting him. Slowly lift and clip one paw at a time.

⊗ Scooter has gotten better about having his teeth brushed but should be held by one person and (muzzled) have the other brush his teeth with the muzzle on.

- When Scooter doesn't listen or is slow to go in his cage remember to put his leash on to lead him. -

When reacting to Scooter not listening be careful not to reach too quickly for his collar.

It's important not to always let Scooter have his way.

Simple reminders like making Scooter get up and move out of your way keep him knowing who's in charge.

Always put his muzzle on if you feel uncertain about what you want Scooter to do.

Don't pay attention to bad behavior when his muzzle is on he can't hurt you!

All dogs see yelling or excessive movement as weakness or insecurity. Always be calm and assertive and Scooter will respect you more and more.

Trusting Scooter with a loose leash gets better results than holding the leash tight.

It's safe to let stranger's pet Scooter now. He loves attention from everybody.

Scooter loves to run and play with other dogs but should I wear a muzzle until you see his behavior with that particular dog.

Don't tolerate Scooter's fear or refusal to do this or that.

Example: Scooter hated getting on a scale. ~~so~~ I made him do it now he does ~~so~~ it easily and happily.

Be careful drying Scooter with a towel on his underside or paws. Use a muzzle until you are comfortable.

Scouter is a special dog and needs patience and confidence.

His excitement and joy make it all worthwhile.

Thank You for giving me a chance and opportunity. I love the Dog Scouter has become. Please keep me informed of his progress or any concerns you have.

Let Scouter lay against your legs and take a nap with you. He Loves that.

He always obeys when I say "Crate". He always goes back in his cage when told while he's laying on my bed!

Feel free to write or ask any questions.

Scouters Friend and Trainer  
Raymond Tallman