

## **Kermit FAQ's:**

### **What is an appropriate home for Kermit?**

Kermit needs a home with patient people who can devote large amounts of time to him. He has a lot to learn. Kermit has never been in a home and does not know how to behave appropriately in one.

### **Is Kermit house broken?**

Kermit is not housebroken. He has spent all of his life in a small uncleaned cage prior to being liberated by HSI a few months ago. Because of his prior living conditions, traditional house training methods will be difficult. Crate training may not work because he does not see the crate as his den (bedroom) but rather a place similar to where he spent most of his life living in his own filth. It will most likely be more appropriate for him to be under 100% supervision on a leash when he is in the home. He should be taken outside every 15 -30 minutes and praised lavishly for going to the potty outside. The crate may be used overnight after food and water have been restricted for approximately 2-3 hours. House breaking is going to require a great deal of commitment and patience.

### **How should I get him accustomed to my home?**

Kermit is going to need some time to adjust to his new environment. New environments are very stressful for dogs. It is not uncommon for shy dogs to hide for a few days and come out when you are not around to eat or drink. Give him a safe place or room to escape to when he feels overwhelmed. Crates work well as safe places. You do not have to always close the door behind him. Feeding him lots of delicious treats will be helpful in making him feel confident in his new home. Limit his access to the entire home, keep bedroom doors closed. When he is comfortable, you can begin to give him on leash tours of your entire house. Make each new room or experience rewarding by giving him lots of praise and treats. Remember to take it slowly because rushing can cause him greater insecurity.

### **Does Kermit like other dogs?**

Yes! Kermit is super dog friendly. Playing with other dogs is one of his favorite things to do. If you have a social dog, it will be very helpful for Kermit. Kermit learns from other dogs more quickly than he does from humans. A social confident dog can be a great help in acclimating Kermit to his new environment and his new family.

**Does Kermit know any basic commands?**

While he is no expert, Kermit has been learning the “down” command and the “touch” command. He will need further basic training to help build his confidence and social skills once he has adapted to his new home.

**How does Kermit react to new people?**

Kermit has come a long way. He was the shyest of our Korean dogs, but has blossomed into the most social. Kermit is a generally friendly and social dog. However, new situations can be stressful. So, caution not to over stimulate him should be taken. Have him meet one or two new people first then gradually ease him into larger gatherings.

**What does Kermit like?**

Kermit is a sweet dog. He loves chin scratches and belly rubs. He also enjoys hot dogs and chicken. His favorite toys are squeaky toys and balls.

**Can Kermit run free in my fenced in yard?**

It would be best to keep Kermit on a leash for the first couple of weeks even when he is in a fenced in yard. Kermit needs to learn the boundaries of your yard. It is best to acclimate him to his new space slowly and diligently.

**Who do I call if I am having trouble with Kermit?**

The AWA is invested in its dogs and its adopters. We offer free training and behavioral support to our adopters through our drop in sessions. Drop in sessions are provided by our behavior coordinator Liz. She can be reached at (856)424-2288 ext. 114 or [behavior@awanj.org](mailto:behavior@awanj.org).