



Dunkin 272266: What to Expect

Dunkin is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Dunkin is your typical PNW adventure dog! He would love hiking, camping, beach trips, and any other outdoorsy dog activity you can think of. Not only is he a grand adventure buddy, but he is a wicked smart donut, who loves to play fetch, tug, and romp around with his doggie friends. During his time at OHS, Dunkin was also a member of OHS' running team and loves to get out for a run rain or shine. America runs on Dunkin...we're just dog trainers, but we feel like there is a fun joke to be made there. We don't think he would do well in a home with young children, small animals, or inexperienced dog owners. Dunkin needs to find a dog experienced home with a patient person who has time to continue working on his training and setting boundaries with the same positive reinforcement techniques we use at OHS.

Dunkin is an easily excited dog who loves to meet new people and dogs but does not yet 100% possess the polite manners to greet off leash, he's at like 85%. When excited, Dunkin likes to jump up on humans, and if he gets too overstimulated, he will jump up and use his mouth to grab onto loose fitting clothes, hands/arms, the leash, or purses/bags. During two of these overstimulated moments, he got the zoomies and redirected his excited energy onto his handlers, resulting in an accidental bite when he jumped up to grab onto their clothes. We have been successful teaching Dunkin to keep his mouth to himself by asking him to sit, using toys to play with him, and giving him appropriate outlets for his energy. Dunkin likes to chase after any critters he sees. Good leash handling skills is a must for him, and he does wonderfully walking on a head halter. This prey drive also includes cats, so best if there are no cats in the home.

Dunkin has shown resource guarding signs on two occasions; once when he stole a steak off the countertops when his owner wasn't looking and he wouldn't let his owner take it back, and on another occasion, he started to develop resource guarding towards the backyard from his owners not letting them enter. It will be **imperative** that his future owners understand that consistent training, setting boundaries, and having structure within Dunkin's homelife is the only way to reduce the risk of resource guarding developing. He has never bitten anyone during these events, just growling, posturing, and teeth flashing. He is not a dog you can bring home and just "let him go" to figure out things on his own. He will need mindful owners who want to see him succeed by setting him up for success. When Dunkin understands what's expected of him, he will flourish and become the best dog friend to an active husky loving owner!

It will take multiple meetings before bringing Dunkin home so that his trainers can transfer all his training skills to his new owners and develop a successful home introduction and training plan. We will give you the skills to succeed, but it is up to his owner(s) to continue the work in the home, including but not limited to hiring a professional dog trainer. Someone familiar with the husky breed would find Dunkin a very typical husky and a joy to have around.



If there's a hole in your heart fill it with Dunkin!



Here is how to help Dunkin settle in during your first months together:

Use treats and toys to help him engage. Dunkin loves learning and using training and treats is an excellent way to develop a strong and lasting relationship of understanding between the two of you. Having Dunkin view you as a valuable resource will create a bond that will be difficult to break and treats, play, and training are a quick route to success.

Continue crate training. Giving Dunkin a safe space like a crate will allow you to control his access to resources as well as teach him to relax. It is a tool necessary when leaving him home alone, as Dunkin, like most all huskies, can become destructive when left home alone with free access to the house.

If you are having people over, put Dunkin on leash so he learns to not dart out the front door or jump all over guests. Once everyone is sitting down and calm you can allow him to walk towards your guests and sit for treats and pets.

Be his advocate. It is okay to ask someone to stop or prevent a person from coming up to say hi to your dog. He can be easily overstimulated into jumping and grabbing at clothes, so asking people not to pet until he sits will help keep Dunkin calm and focused without getting too rowdy. We don't want to reward him for unwanted behavior, so it's ok to walk away if he starts jumping.

Dunkin needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Dunkin loves to play fetch, other dogs, and go for walks with lots of sniffing. Giving him a healthy outlet for some of his energy will help him settle during calm hours at home. He is an incredibly active dog and would love adventures on hiking trails or playing safely with other dogs. Exercise is not a substitute for learning how to relax. You will still need to continue training Dunkin how to relax, rather than exhausting him as too much exercise can lead to an Olympic athlete who doesn't know how to settle and will find unhealthy outlets for their energy.

Work on having him settle on a bed and gently praise him for lying down. If he gets up to pace, call him back and use a treat to lure him into a down again. If he is on leash, you can hold him with approx. 4 feet of leash and wait until he offers a settle by lying down. Softly praise and treat when he does this. He will eventually default to this behavior.

Wait for the dog park! Do not take him to busy places where he will have lots of uncontrolled interactions with people or other dogs (such as Saturday Market, dog parks, coffee shops, etc.) until he has had time to build trust with you.

Work on relationship building and recall first! Consider doggy daycare where the personality of other dogs is known.

Visiting the Vet: Unless it is an emergency, give your dog plenty of time to bond to you before taking them to your vet. Dunkin does very well at the vet, he loves meeting new people to fawn all over him. The vet can still be a scary place. Bringing tasty treats like cheese and/or hot dogs can help make the experience more pleasant for him.

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.

Patience will come in handy for you. Dunkin is a smart dog who is always learning. It can take 3-6 months before you will see Dunkin settle into your family home and lifestyle. Faster if you continue to use the training techniques provided.

We're here to help!

We want Dunkin to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Dunkin, we can also set up a free one-on-one consultation. For questions or to schedule an appointment, contact Annika at **(503) 802-6713** or annikah@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!

Behavioral Medication for your New Dog

This dog has been prescribed one or more medications to help reduce anxiety and impulsivity during his/her time in the shelter. You may be provided with a supply of this dog's medication(s) along with specific dosing instructions at the time of adoption. We would recommend that you continue giving this medication for at least the first 6 months after adoption to help reduce stress that may be associated with this dog making a smooth transition into your home. When it appears time to stop giving your dog these medications, please contact your veterinarian for an appropriate weaning off protocol and to make sure you have enough medication to allow for a weaning off process.

During this process, please watch for any signs of worsening fear or anxiety. If the dog appears to be getting worse during the weaning off process, contact your veterinarian as longer treatment may be needed.