



## Bernard 282088: What to Expect

**Bernard is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and needs a special home.** Bernard is a very sweet and smart young dog! Once he warms up, he absolutely loves playing with toys, learning, and snuggling up with his human friends. For Bernard, things like living inside, walking on leash, and training are new experiences. He had an isolated start in life spending his first months confined to a backyard and didn't get the socialization he needed as a young puppy. He is still learning how the human world works and how to navigate through it. He can be nervous in new situations and may find them overwhelming, so he's not going to want to go everywhere with you at first. We've been successful introducing Bernard to new things, slowly, one new thing at a time, and using treats to make sure his experience is a positive one. It's important to take things at Bernard's pace, as a frightened dog will look for any occasion to bolt when startled: out of vehicles, out the front door, or slipping the leash. **Keep a very tight grip of that leash!**

Bernard is still working on potty training, and he will need your help (and patience!) to continue to be successful. He does best when he can stick to a routine and has a predictable schedule. Be prepared for accidents, especially as he settles in and learns. Bernard finds going potty while on leash confusing, we've been successful taking him out every few hours and letting him off leash in a securely fenced yard.

Bernard came to OHS with some mild scabs and scars from fighting over limited resources with his 5 siblings in his previous home. During his time at OHS, Bernard has been successful and enjoyed small playgroups with calm, social dogs. Rowdy or exuberant dogs, large groups of dogs (daycare or dog parks) would be too much activity for him at this time as he learns to build confidence and socialization skills. He would do best playing in controlled environments; playdates with known, calm, friendly dogs, will work better!

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

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

**Designate a “safe spot” in your home.** You can use a crate or tall baby gates to confine him to a smaller area where they have access to water, bed, and toys. When you are unable to supervise Bernard, leave him in his “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.

**Let them drag a leash attached to their collar** for the first week or two inside and outside the home. Keeping Bernard on a leash will help you guide him to make good choices in your home. Treats always help!

**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 his body language and help your dog out of situations if they appear stressed.

When you have people over, **it's okay to put Bernard in another room.** If you'd like Bernard to meet a guest, put him on a leash and give him time to adjust before allowing your guest to pet. Let it be Bernard's choice to go to them for pets or hang back and watch.

**Skip the dog park.** Don't take Bernard to busy places where they will have lots of uncontrolled interactions with people or other dogs (such as Saturday Market, dog parks, coffee shops, etc.). Bernard has shown us he easily gets overwhelmed by lots of people, new places, or rowdy dogs.

**Visiting the Vet:** Unless it is an emergency, give your dog plenty of time to bond to you before taking them to your vet. Bernard does well when meeting new people, but he may still be nervous in a new place. The vet can still be a scary place. Bringing tasty treats like cheese and/or hot dogs can help make the experience more pleasant.

**Take a training class.** Bernard would benefit from taking some training classes with his new owners and would love to learn more alongside his family. Training classes help strengthen the bond between owner and dog by creating clear and precise communication so there are no misunderstandings. You can find more info about our training classes on our website at (<https://www.oregonhumane.org/training/training-at-ohs/>).

**Patience will come in handy for you.** Bernard is a puppy who needs an understanding, calm owner who has the time and desire to work on training with him. He will pay you back by supplying love and enthusiasm!

### We're here to help!

We want Bernard to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Bernard, 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](mailto:annikah@oregonhumane.org).

Please keep in touch so we can continue to help you and Bernard now and in the future. Reach out if you have any 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!