



Ollie: What to Expect

Ollie is a very loving and sweet boy who wants to be your best buddy! He loves to learn and is extremely responsive to positive reinforcement training with treats and toys. He was not well socialized as a pup, so his new people will need to be aware that he is not a social butterfly with strangers.

Ollie needs to find a dog *experienced* home without young children. He's looking for a patient person(s) who has the time and desire to continue working on setting boundaries and training using the same positive reinforcement techniques we use at OHS. We don't think he would do well living in a high-rise apartment, a heavily populated neighborhood, or a home with a lot of hustle and bustle as Ollie can become frustrated on the leash at the sight of strangers and has jumped towards them, barking.

When Ollie gets excited, he also likes to jump up on his humans, and if overstimulated more, he will grab onto loose fitting clothes, the leash, or purses/bags. He will do much better in a calm, low traffic adult home that will continue his training and management plans. We've been very successful teaching Ollie to sit and wait to help him in his overexcited state. Meeting his exercise and enrichment needs helps tremendously when it comes to managing his overexcited energy as it gives him a healthy outlet. He loves puzzle toys and will tire his brain out playing with them.

Here's how to help Ollie settle in during your first months together:

Use treats and toys to build trust. Maintaining and continuing his training will create a bond and a form of communication between two species who don't understand each other. The more positive experiences Ollie 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 taller baby gates to confine him to a smaller area where he has access to water, bed, and toys. When you are unable to supervise him, leave him in his safe spot. Slowly work towards leaving him alone unsecured once he's had the chance to settle into your home and you know with certainty, he will be comfortable.

If you're having people over, put Ollie on leash so he learns to not dart out the front door or jump all over people. Once everyone is sitting down and calm you can drop the leash and allow him to decide if he wants to go say hi to your company, ensure your guests ask him to sit before being pet so he's rewarded for keeping 4 feet on the floor. If he becomes jumpy and nippy, simply pick up his leash and lead him away and ask for a sit to calm him.

Be his 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 him out of situations if he appears stressed (barking, pulling, jumping). Explain that Ollie is not social to strangers and should never greet strangers. Ollie will bark and pull toward them when on a walk and will need continued practice on learning to ignore them, but he gets better every day.

Ollie needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Ollie loves to go for training walks, play fetch, and chase a flirt pole. Giving him a healthy outlet for some of his energy will help him settle during calm hours at home.

Practice "Leave it." Ollie may bark and lunge if he sees strangers when he's on a walk. **Before** he starts barking, say "leave it." When he turns to look at you, reward with praise and a treat and walk away from the trigger. Distance is calming

Skip the dog park. Don't take him to busy places where he will have lots of *uncontrolled* interactions with people or other dogs (such as a busy Market, dog parks, coffee shops, etc.). Taking him on leashed hikes, to the river, playing in the backyard, or to quiet places will allow him to exercise, but keep him calm and engaged with you.

Visiting the Vet: Unless it's an emergency, give your dog plenty of time to bond to you before taking them to your vet. Start with positive visits just for treats. Vet visits will more than likely be scary, but if your dog already trusts you, your presence may help them feel more comfortable.

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. Ollie is a sensitive dog who responds best to positive reinforcement and reward-based training. He needs an understanding, calm owner who has the time and motivation to want to work with him. He will pay you back by supplying you with love and enthusiasm!

We're here to help!

We want Ollie to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via phone and email. Call our free Behavior Help-Line 503-416-2983 or email OHSTrainers@oregonhumane.org

It would be very helpful to set up a one-on-one consultation at <https://www.oregonhumane.org/training/> (scroll down for "Private Training").

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.