



Toller 282087: What to Expect

Toller is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and needs a special home. Toller is a sweet, sensitive, and curious puppy who loves to go on long leisurely sniffing walks, is a fabulous cuddle buddy, and his silly goofball nature will leave you giggling! Before coming to OHS, Toller was an outside-only pup with hardly any socialization other than his yard and his siblings; because of this, Toller is just now experiencing the great, big, wide world and all that it has to offer a dog! It can be very new and intimidating, so he'll most likely do best in a home with a patient person(s) who understands him and can continue to foster his confidence and courage in new environments and situations by using the same reward-based training methods we use here at OHS. In his time under our care, Toller has shown that he is a wonderfully mild-mannered and incredibly affectionate adolescent puppy. Once he is comfortable, Toller is the BIGGEST cuddle bug on the planet, and he will stick to you like caramel and never want to leave.

Because Toller has never lived in a home, he will need help with potty training. To maximize his successes outside, he'll need a consistent and well-structured routine. He's also not used to going to the bathroom on leash. We have been successful with making frequent trips outside and having him in a yard where he can be unleashed. Be prepared for accidents, especially as he settles in, but he'll learn quickly with frequent trips outside and lots of praise and treats!

When Toller first came to OHS, he had multiple scabs on his body and a partially ripped ear—he and his brothers had been getting into scuffles over limited resources in their confined space. While in the BMOD Program, he has had very successful play dates with other calm and confident dogs; however, he shies away from dogs who are overly rambunctious and overwhelming. Go slowly with introducing Toller to new things, make sure his experiences are positive, and continue to build up his gleeful confidence.

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

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 their body language and help your dog out of situations if they appear stressed. Explain that Toller isn't always comfortable with people and doesn't enjoy meeting strangers while on their walk. Tossing a treat on the ground is more effective for your dog to make positive associations with new people. Distance is calming.

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

If you're having people over, put Toller on leash so they learn 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 your dog to decide if they want to go say hi to your guests. Ensure your guests ask Toller to sit before being pet so they're rewarded for keeping 4 feet on the floor.

Practice crate training. Start by feeding meals in a wire crate and work your way up from there. It will be in your best interest to **slowly** increase time in the crate, so they view it as a safe, comfortable spot. When you cannot monitor your dog in the home, allow them some time to settle and relax in the crate.

"Puppy proof" your home and practice tether training to prevent them from getting into puppy/adolescent trouble. When home have Toller on leash, attached to you or tethered to a large piece of furniture as you go about your daily routine. This will help with potty training, bonding, and creating boundaries within the home. Let Toller drag the leash

around the house or yard from time to time to simulate “freedom”, but do not let them off leash until they can 100% be trusted not to get into things they shouldn’t. This could take up to a few weeks. Crate Toller when you cannot watch them. This will ensure their puppy curiosity doesn’t get them into any trouble. You will have long lasting success if you follow this method.

Take a training class. Toller would benefit from taking some training classes with their new owners and would love to learn more alongside their family in a training class. 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/>).

We’re here to help!

We want Toller to be successful in your home. We’re available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Toller, 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 and Toller 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!