



Donut 283489: What to Expect

Donut is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Donut is a very sweet and playful young dog! Once she warms up, she adores going for walks, playing with toys, and snuggles from her human friends. For Donut, things like living inside, walking on leash, and training are new experiences. She had an isolated start in life spending her first months confined to a backyard and didn't get the socialization she needed as a young puppy. She is still learning how the human world works and how to navigate through it. She can be nervous in new situations and when meeting someone new, so she's not going to want to go everywhere with you at first. We've been successful introducing Donut to new experiences by going slowly, doing one thing at a time, and making sure her experience is a positive one.

Living inside is a new experience for Donut and along with that comes learning where it is appropriate for her to potty. She will need your help (and patience!) as she continues to be successful. Donut does best when she can stick to a routine and a predictable schedule. Be prepared for accidents, especially as she settles into your home and continues to learn. Donut finds going potty while on leash a confusing task, and we've been successful taking her out every few hours and letting her off leash in a securely fenced yard.

Donut came to OHS with some mild scabs and scars from fighting over limited resources with her siblings in their previous home. During her time at OHS, Donut has shown that she can get easily overwhelmed by other dogs and does not enjoy playing with them. Due to her growing up in an environment where she felt she needed to fight for resources, she likely sees other dogs as competition rather than as possible friends. On leash, Donut will often bark and pull at the sight of another dog. Donut will need to be the only dog in a home. But she will absolutely adore being the center of her human's world! She absolutely loves people and meeting new people with treats, but is most likely not going to be a dog's dog.

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

Use treats and toys to build trust. Maintaining and continuing Donut's training will create a bond and a form of communication between two species who don't understand each other. The more positive experiences Donut has with her 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 them to a smaller area where they have access to water, bed, and toys. When you are unable to supervise the dog, leave them in their 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 Donut on a leash will help you guide her 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 their body language and help your dog out of situations if they appear stressed.

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

Skip the dog park. Don't take Donut 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.). Donut has shown us she easily gets overwhelmed by lots of people, new places, and dogs.

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.

Take a training class. Donut 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/>).

Patience will come in handy for you. Donut responds best to positive reinforcement and reward-based training. They will need an understanding, calm owner who has the time and desire to work on helping them learn to live in a home. Donut will pay you back by supplying love and enthusiasm!

We expect that Donut will be overwhelmed by everything they encounter at first. During the critical first months in a new home, their safety will depend on your good judgment and forethought. **A frightened dog will look for any occasion to bolt when startled: out of vehicles, out the front door, or slipping out of the leash. Keep a very tight grip of that leash!**

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.

We're here to help!

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