



Colby 281973: What to Expect

Colby is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program. He is an active dog who is ready to be someone's adventure buddy! He is a big, squishy sweetheart who wants nothing more than to melt into your arms after a nice long walk. His overbite just adds to the charm, and he loves to give smooches that bump you with his nose.

Colby was a backyard dog who was found as a stray with his collar embedded in his neck and entropion eyelids. He's since had surgery and is fully healed.

Colby loves people but has a hard time settling and being alone. We've had success with providing enrichment, training, and increasing his exercise needs, paired with medication, to help soothe his anxiety. Future adopters will need to continue this plan to help Colby be successful long term. He also gets excited about new people/dogs, new environments, and will bounce around erratically with enthusiasm on leash and excitedly jump up on you. Off leash, Colby's over exuberance to play tends to be overwhelming for most dogs. This isn't fair to other dogs, even if Colby has the best intentions, so Colby will need continued training in dog interactions. Colby loves to learn, and it has been a key component in helping him be calmer. The ideal home will be free of any cats or small animals and with someone who is ready for a lot of adventures and snuggle time.

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

It will take a couple of months for Colby to adjust. Having a predictable schedule will help him to understand your routine.

Use treats and toys to build trust. Maintaining and continuing Colby's training will create a solid bond with you. The more positive experiences Colby 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 Colby to a smaller area where they have access to water, bed, and toys. When you are unable to supervise, leave him in this safe spot. Slowly work toward leaving him alone, unsecured, once he's had the chance to settle into your home and you know with certainty, they will be comfortable.

If you're having people over, put Colby on leash so cannot dart out the front door or jump all over people. Once everyone is sitting down you can walk him over to go say hi to your guests. Ensure your guests ask Colby to sit before being pet, so he is rewarded for remaining calm and keeping 4 feet on the floor.

Colby needs daily exercise to reduce stress. He loves to go for runs, walks, play fetch, and chase a flirt pole. Providing a healthy outlet for his energy will help him settle during calm hours at home.

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 he views it as a safe, comfortable spot. When you cannot monitor him in the home, allow him some time to settle and relax in the crate.

Take a training class. Colby would benefit from taking some training classes with his new owners. 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/>).

Skip the dog park. Don't take Colby 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.). Taking leashed hikes, playing in the backyard, or on play dates with known dogs will help Colby grow into an understanding and calm dog that will feel more comfortable adjusting to his new world.

Work daily on having Colby settle on a mat and gently praise them for lying down. If he gets up to pace, call him back and use a treat to lure him into a down again. If Colby is on leash, you can hold him with approximately 4 feet of leash and wait until he offers a settle by lying down. Softly praise and treat when he does this.

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

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

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.

Behavioral Medication for your new dog

This dog has been prescribed one or more medications to help reduce anxiety and impulsivity during their 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.

We're here to help!

We're available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Colby, 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!