



Oden 295042: What to Expect

Oden is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Oden is an exuberant, active, and loving young dog! He loves playing with toys, romping in the yard, and is motivated to try new things, such as fun tricks, Nose Work, and agility. He would do well in an active home where his people can dedicate time to continuing his training and join many adventures. Oden is your typical German Shepherd; loyal, loving, playful, and sometimes reserved with new people. In a previous home Oden's owners used training methods that involved physical punishments and no clear direction, this resulted in Oden developing some fearful behavior towards new people and situations. He would cower low to the ground, avoid people, and bark at strangers. Since coming in to OHS, we've been able to build his confidence and trust using positive reinforcement techniques and setting clear achievable goals. Oden is still an adolescent and has a lot of room to grow and develop not only physically but emotionally and will need owners who can help guide him on this journey. To help him achieve his best success it is advised his new owners join some professional dog training classes, setting him up for success, and using positive reinforcement techniques.

Oden can be an easily excitable dog, especially when greeting people or dogs, and if overstimulated more will jump up and grab onto loose fitting clothes, the leash, or purses/bags. We've been successful asking Oden to sit for leashing, before throwing toys, and ensuring he is calm and focused before greeting other dogs or people. Oden loves working for treats or a tug on one of his favorite toys and by continuing to work on his impulse control, he will develop into a well-adjusted adult dog who can think before acting.

In a previous home Oden has successfully lived alongside cats and frequented the dog park without any known issues. While Oden is social with other dogs, we suggest Oden have scheduled playdates with known dogs to help his overarousal and confidence. While in the previous home a relative's dog was brought into the home during a visit and attempted to eat out of Oden's food bowl. Oden did react and bite the dog in an attempt to resource guard his food. We think Oden could live with another dog, if appropriate management plans were in place to eliminate the drive for wanting to protect his food, like eating in a crate or separate room.

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

If you're having people over, put Oden 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 Oden to sit before being pet so they're rewarded for keeping 4 feet on the floor.

Use routine to get Oden comfortable in their new home. It will take a couple weeks for Oden to feel comfortable in their new home and with you. Having a predictable schedule will help them adjust to their new home.

Oden needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Oden loves to go for runs, walks, play fetch, and chase a flirt pole. Giving your dog a healthy outlet for some of their energy will help them settle during calm hours at home.

Work on having Oden settle on a mat and gently praise them for lying down. If they get up to pace, call them back and use a treat to lure them into a down again. If Oden is on leash, you can hold them with approximately 4 feet of leash and wait until they offer a settle by lying down. Softly praise and treat when they do this.

Practice "Leave it." Oden may bark and lunge if they see other dogs out on a walk. When a dog is sighted, **before** they start barking, say "leave it." When they turn to look at you, reward with praise and a treat and walk away from the trigger. Distance is calming.

Don't take Oden to busy places where they will have lots of uncontrolled interactions with people/dogs (such as Saturday Market, off-leash dog parks, coffee shops, walks down Hawthorne St., Home Depot, etc.).

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 Oden 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 Oden 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 Oden 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. Oden 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/>).

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

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.