



Jeri 291343: What to Expect

Jeri is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Jeri is a playful, active, and loving adolescent dog. He is motivated to learn using treats and toys and loves to romp around with other dogs who match his rough and tumble play style. Jeri was briefly adopted and returned due to the owner being unwilling to help Jeri adjust to living in a home environment. Being an adolescent dog Jeri is active, curious, and when his needs aren't met, like most adolescent dogs, he can find ways to satiate his energy and curiosity needs through chewing on non-dog items. We've been successful laying a training foundation with Jeri during his time at OHS through positive reinforcement training and appropriate management. We've started crate training Jeri, so he is comfortable when needing to be left alone unsupervised. Once Jeri understands what it is you're trying to communicate he is a willing and motivated participant in making good choices. His new owners should continue his training with active hands-on exercises and/or taking a class with a professional dog trainer. Training classes helps 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.

We think Jeri would do best in a home with an active and engaged family who wants to see Jeri succeed. As an adolescent Jeri is still learning how to master his emotions, and sometimes while on walks he can become frustrated that he can't run up to say hello to every person and dog he sees. This can manifest in pulling, lunging, and barking in an attempt to get to what he's interested in. We've been successful using treats and positive reinforcement techniques to teach Jeri to find handlers valuable and worth focusing on. To prevent further frustration while out on walks, practice leave it, and don't allow any leashed greetings, which could reinforce the behavior inadvertently. Due to Jeri's exuberant personality, we don't think he would be a good match for small children as he could knock them over and steal their toys or food. Teenaged children would find Jeri to be a delightful and playful partner who is also seeking adventurous outlets.

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

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

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

Patience will come in handy for you. Jeri 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. Jeri will pay you back by supplying love and enthusiasm!

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

Jeri needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Jeri 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 Jeri settle on a mat, cot, or dog bed 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 Jeri 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.

Walk Jeri on an appropriate walking tool. We have been using a special head halter, called a transitional leash, to help guide Jeri to walk nicely on leash with little to no pulling. When Jeri sees other dogs on walks, they become incredibly excited and then frustrated that they cannot run up to say hello and play, causing them to jump, pull, whine, bark, and sometimes growl. It will be important to never let Jeri run up to other dogs on leash as that can reinforce their frustrations.

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 Jeri 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 Jeri 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 Jeri 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.

Practice “Leave it.” Jeri 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 Jeri 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.). Wait for Jeri to bond and trust you and for your trust and training skills to settle before taking on busy environments.

Visiting the Vet: Unless it is an emergency, give your dog plenty of time to bond to you before taking them to your vet. Jeri does very well at the vet, they handle meeting new being well. The vet 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.

We’re here to help!

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