



Wednesday 303861: What to Expect

Wednesday is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Wednesday is a delightfully sweet young dog that enjoys the company of her human friends and going for long sniffy walks. Once she's comfortable, she enjoys gentle petting and learning new things with her people! Wednesday's history is a mystery. She was found as a stray, wandering the streets, before being transferred to OHS through our Second Chance Program. During her time at OHS, Wednesday has enjoyed going for leisurely sniffy walks, exploring new spaces, & meeting new people at her pace. Wednesday can be a nervous and shy dog; it will take time and patience for her to adjust to her new home and it could be a few months before she feels comfortable in her new environment. While Wednesday does like to occasionally be gently pet or brushed, she is not a lap dog or overly affectionate. She much prefers to exist alongside her family. Slow and steady wins the race with Wednesday! We believe she would not do well in a home with small children, a busy neighborhood, and/or a downtown apartment building. She would do best in a home with a family who will respect her boundaries and allow her to progress at her pace. We expect that Wednesday 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!**

During her time at OHS, we have successfully introduced Wednesday to other dogs. She is uncomfortable with overly playful or energetic dogs who are all up in her business. She prefers to stick to the sidelines, watching them and doing her own thing. She is most comfortable with dogs who are neutral with her presence. She would likely find busy uncontrolled settings such as dog parks or Saturday market very overwhelming. Instead, Wednesday would prefer to hang out with her humans on a quiet walk around the neighborhood, at home, or join them for laid back adventures, such as quiet nature walks. Wednesday could enjoy living in a home with a resident dog, but the dog(s) would need to be well socialized, calm, and understand not to rush into interactions with Wednesday. A pet meet is required to ensure that dogs are a match. Wednesday may also enjoy being loved and spoiled as the only dog in the home.

Here's how to help Wednesday 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 Wednesday is not 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.

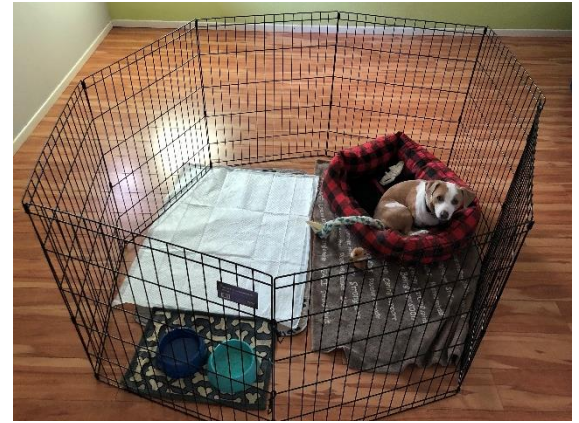
Let them drag a leash attached to their collar for the first week or two inside and outside the home. Fast movements are startling, and it will take time for them to be okay with you approaching and removing the leash. If you go slow at the beginning, you'll build a trusting relationship. Treats always help!

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

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

Use treats and toys to build trust. Maintaining and continuing Wednesday's training will create a bond and a form of communication between two species who don't understand each other. The more positive experiences Wednesday has with their 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.



Wednesday's "safe spot" when no one is 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 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. Wednesday 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. Wednesday 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. Wednesday will pay you back by supplying love and enthusiasm!

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