



Deviled Eggs 309235: What to Expect

Deviled Eggs is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Deviled Eggs is a special rescue dog who was previously living on some unfenced property in the Dalles with 20+ other dogs, many her relatives. She and her siblings were brought into OHS after the danger of a fire put their lives at risk. When Deviled Eggs arrived at the shelter, she was very fearful of people with running away, hiding, and vocalizing if people got too close. She only came out of her shell when other familiar dogs were around, and she was able to take a trip outside. Once we were able to move her into a quieter space where she could relax, decompress, and get to know the staff she started to open up, solicit gentle scratches, be excited to go on walks, and we are seeing more of her personality show!

Deviled Eggs takes some time and patience to warm up to new people and new places, but once she does, she enjoys going on leisurely sniffy walks, will solicit soft pets, and climb into the lap of her trusted human friends. Prior to coming to OHS, it is likely Deviled Eggs had never walked on a leash or lived inside a home. She will need patient owners who will continue to introduce her to leash walking and living in the great big human world, slowly, using the same positive reinforcement-based techniques we use here at OHS. Deviled Eggs can be a fearful girl, when frightened, she resorts to darting, hiding, barking, and if pushed further & cornered she could escalate to snapping and biting. Because of this we feel Deviled Eggs will do best in a home without small children; their fast, loud, and unpredictable movements can be frightening for a dog learning to trust people. Predictability is best to help her feel safe. She may do well living with older children who can understand to respect her space. We expect that Deviled Eggs 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!**

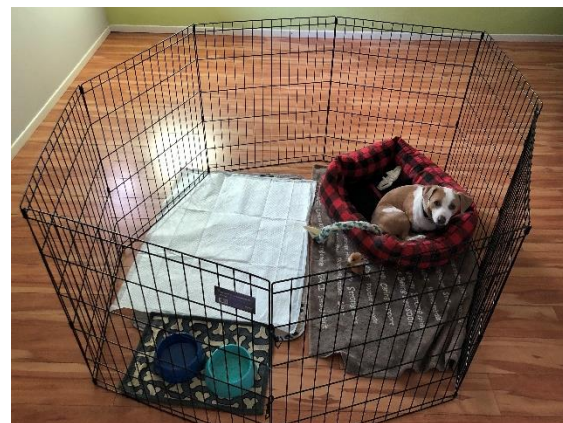
Having to share the attention with 20+ other dogs her whole life, we believe she would do best as the only dog in the home, soaking up all the love and attention for herself. Playdates with known dogs will be a great outlet for her to continue to be social with other dogs of friends and family members. She can at times hoard the attention from humans and growl, hard stare, and bark at other dogs who try to interrupt her one-on-one time. During her time at OHS, Deviled Eggs has shown that she's uncomfortable with restraint and vet type handling. While Deviled Eggs settles in, planning ahead to keep vet visits as stress free as possible will be in Deviled Eggs' best interest. She will allow her most trusted humans to handle her, pick her up, and examine her, but will be unlikely to willingly allow a vet to do so. Please have a conversation with her veterinarian on best practice when needed before your first visit.

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

Use an exercise pen to confine Deviled Eggs to a small area when you are not home or able to supervise them (see picture). Give them a bed, water, favorite toy, and a potty pad. This "safe spot" will also be a great place to put them when you have visitors to your home, so they don't have to worry about interacting with everyone if they're not comfortable.

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 Deviled Eggs is not comfortable with people and doesn't enjoy meeting strangers while on their walk. 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!



Deviled Eggs's "safe spot" when no one is home.

Allow for time to build trust. Always let Deviled Eggs decide if they want to come closer to you. Don't force interactions. As they grow more comfortable, you will see Deviled Eggs decide that they enjoy spending time with you by coming closer for pets, jumping next to you on the couch, and playing with toys.

Don't take Deviled Eggs 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.).

Supervise your dog outside. Even if you have a fenced yard, please do not let Deviled Eggs out alone. They are small and could easily hide under your deck or a bush - or slip through a gap in your fence! They do like to go for short walks and go outside to potty but need some time to build confidence to go on longer excursions.

Wait to take walks. Deviled Eggs will need time to bond with you before you start taking them for walks. Give them a couple of weeks to get to know you and their new home, then practice walking around your yard before trying a walk around the block.

When you have people over, **it's okay to put Deviled Eggs in another room.** If you'd like Deviled Eggs to meet a guest, put them on a leash and give them time to adjust without pressure. Let it be Deviled Eggs' choice to go to them for pets or hang back and watch. Crowding Deviled Eggs or forcing them to interact can make fearful behavior worse.

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

Patience will come in handy for you. Deviled Eggs 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. Deviled Eggs 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.

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. In order to avoid any adverse side effects (including behavioral and systemic) please do not abruptly stop administering these medications or discontinue use without consulting your veterinarian. When it appears time to stop giving your dog these medications, please contact your veterinarian for an appropriate protocol to make sure you have enough medication to allow for a gradual weaning off process. Please do not substitute other supplements or medications (including your own prescriptions) without consulting a veterinary professional.

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 or a different combination of medications may be needed. Remember that successful behavioral rehabilitation often relies on a combination of pharmaceutical therapy as well as various training modalities.

We're here to help!

We want Deviled Eggs to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Deviled Eggs, we can also set up a free one-on-one consultation. For questions or to schedule an appointment, contact us at **(503) 285-7722 ex 422** or BMODTrainers@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!

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Pet Behavior Help Line: (503)416-2983 | oregonhumane.org/training