

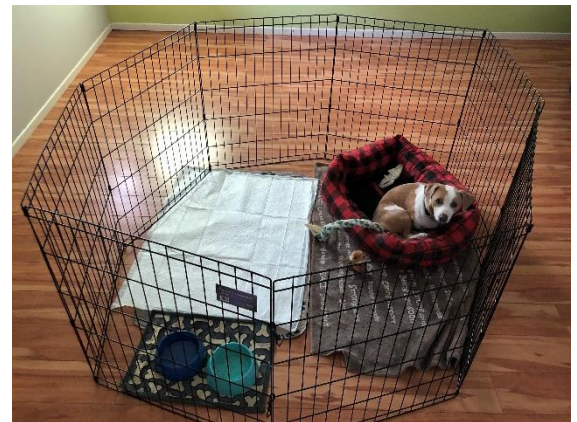
Dillon 316279: What to Expect

Dillon is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Dillon is an active small dog who loves going for walks, playing with toys, and jumping into your lap for attention! Dillon's history is a mystery; he was found wandering the streets as a stray before being transferred to OHS. During Dillon's time at OHS, he has shown that he's not comfortable with certain types of handling, such as placing collars, clothes, or slip leads over his head and neck or vet examination. When uncomfortable, Dillon may tense, growl, and snap towards hands. When a law enforcement officer attempted to slip a leash over Dillon's head, Dillon did snap at them, breaking skin and resulting in a bite. We've had success pairing handling and leashing with positive things, like food and pets, and turning it into a more enjoyable experience for Dillon. He'll need an understanding owner that's will to continue his progress at a pace that is comfortable for him and know how to advocate for his safe handling. Dillon will not enjoy having clothes or harnesses placed over his head routinely and owners should inform the veterinarian of his sensitive nature towards handling, vaccinations, and exams. When Dillon trusts his handler, he is calmer and handles these interactions better.

While Dillon does illicit play from other dogs, he can be pushy socially with other dogs. He also doesn't fully understand that some dogs don't want to play with him, and he can ignore signals like growling asking him to give them space. We believe that Dillon would prefer to be the only dog in his future home, and any dogs he could potentially live with would need to come in for a pet meet to ensure compatibility between the dogs. We think Dillon would love to live in a low traffic home away from the hustle and bustle of a busy downtown type of neighborhood and no small children. 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!**

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

Use an exercise pen to confine Dillon 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.



Dillon's "safe spot" when no one is home.

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 Dillon is small and is easily overwhelmed when people and dogs invade his space.

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!

Supervise your dog outside. Even if you have a fenced yard, please do not let Dillon 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 will need some time before they go on larger and longer adventures.

Dillon needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Dillon 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.

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

Patience will come in handy for you. Dillon 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. Dillon 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 Dillon to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Dillon, we can also set up a free one-on-one consultation. For questions or to schedule an appointment, contact us at **(503) 285-1145** 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!