



Ethel 319296: What to Expect

Ethel is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Ethel is an active and silly girl who is ready for her next adventure! Ethel was transferred to OHS through our Second Chance Program after being found as a stray, so much of her history is a mystery. She has a lot of enthusiasm for life, she loves to run around in the yard, go for walks, play with toys, and she is motivated to learn new things! Ethel can be nervous meeting new people at first and this manifests with avoidant behavior, low whining/growling, and submissive urination. Ethel loves treats and if given a few minutes to allow her to approach you for sniffs, she becomes a fast life long friend. Owners will need to go slow when introducing her to new friends by allowing her to approach when she's ready. Playing hard to get is the way to Ethel's heart and help her feel the most comfortable.

Once Ethel trusts you, she blossoms with excitement, happiness, and affection. When Ethel is overly excited, she may jump up on handlers and if overstimulated further may grab onto loose fitting clothing, the leash, or bags/purses, with her mouth. We've been successful teaching Ethel to sit and wait for leashing or before throwing toys in the yard. Future adopters will need to be prepared to continue Ethel's training, using the same positive reinforcement-based techniques we use here at OHS. Ethel is an adolescent dog learning to regulate her emotions while building confidence and trust and will need a family who will continue her education as she grows. We've been successful building up Ethel's confidence and introducing her to new experiences slowly. Adopters will need to be prepared to go at Ethel's pace, with time she will pay you back in love and enthusiasm.

We've introduced Ethel to multiple dogs here at OHS and determined she can be a little socially awkward at times. While Ethel is excited and appropriate with other dogs, her rough and tumble play style isn't for everyone. We've been successful teaching her to remain calm at the sight of dogs, to sniff calmly first, and then turn to play if the other dog reciprocates. Shy, calm, easily offended, and/or unsocialized dogs will find Ethel overwhelming, but dogs who share her play style will find her a delight. Due to this behavior, we don't believe she is a candidate for the uncontrolled environment of the dog park or doggie daycare. Scheduled visits with known dogs in a secure fenced in yard or SniffSpot will be best for her continued success and confidence building.

Here's how to help Ethel 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 Ethel is not comfortable with strange 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.

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

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

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!

Ethel needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Ethel 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.

Limit introductions to new people. Take your time to get to know Ethel before introducing them to someone new. They may need to meet a new person multiple times before feeling comfortable with strangers. Treats and allowing Ethel to approach as they feel comfortable will be best. New people should just completely ignore Ethel at first – playing hard to get is the way to their heart.

Supervise your dog outside. Even if you have a fenced yard, please do not let Ethel out alone. They are a nervous dog and could seek an escape if they feel overwhelmed or trapped. Guiding them into the yard to explore and back into the house will help them adjust to the routine without them feeling forced, trapped, or overwhelmed.

Don't take Ethel 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.).

Work on having Ethel settle on a mat, dog bed, or cot 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 Ethel 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 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 Ethel 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 Ethel 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 Ethel 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. Ethel 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/>).

We expect that Ethel 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!**

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

We're here to help!

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