

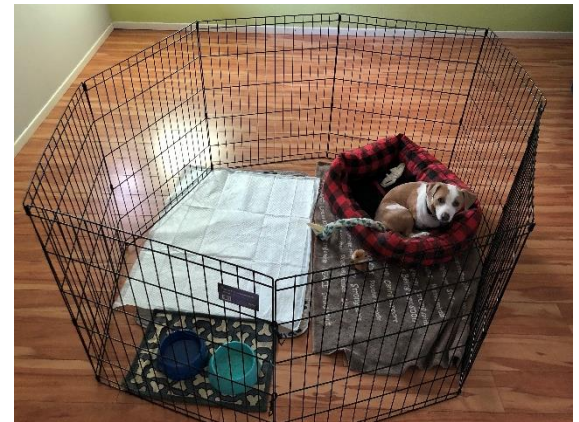
## Norman 324213: What to Expect

**Norman is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home.** Norman is a sweet soul with the kindest eyes you've ever seen. He loves to climb onto laps for pets and stare deeply and lovingly into your eyes. Norman came into OHS as a stray with three other small dogs. He was stressed out by the chaotic nature of the shelter, was shut down, nervous, and would try to hide from anyone who came to interact with him. Moving Norman into the Behavior Modification program allowed Norman to decompress in a quieter space, he was able to come out of his shell, and he quickly warmed up to staff and other dogs. When comfortable Norman has shown that he is also quite the active dude, and will joyously follow you around, will play with toys, and loves to go on walkies. When uncomfortable, Norman will hide, avoid contact, and refuse to move. Further pressure to interact, especially with attempts to pick up or veterinary handling could lead to growling and snapping. It's best to take things slow and allow Norman time to bond and trust you. He would not do well in a home with a family who will want to pick up, grab, or put clothes on.

Patience will come in handy for you, we believe Norman will do best in calm and quiet home without small children and with a family who are able to continue using the same positive reinforcement-based techniques we've had success with. Norman has a positive history of living with other dogs and does find confidence existing around them. While not required, we think Norman would really enjoy having a doggie companion in his forever home! We expect that Norman 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!**

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

**Use an exercise pen** to confine Norman 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.



*Norman's "safe spot" when no one is home.*

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

**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.

**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 Norman 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.

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

**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!

**Allow for time to build trust.** Always let Norman decide if they want to come closer to you. Don't force interactions. As they grow more comfortable, you will see Norman decide that they enjoy spending time with you by coming closer for pets, jumping next to you on the couch, and following your resident dog around.

**Supervise your dog outside.** Even if you have a fenced yard, please do not let Norman 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 in even the quietest of neighborhoods.

**Take Norman outside on leash.** Even if you have a fenced yard, please do not let Norman out alone. They are so small, that they could easily hide under your deck or a bush - or slip through a gap in your fence! Norman does like to go for walks and go outside to potty, but needs some time to figure out the routine before being trusted off leash.

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

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

**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 Norman to be successful in your home. We're available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Norman, 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](mailto: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!