



## Chewie 330236: What to Expect

**Chewie is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home.** Chewie is a happy, goofy guy! He loves going for walks, playing with toys, and romping in the yard with his dog friends! Chewie can be a bit nervous at first, especially when encountering someone or something new, but with time and patience he's sure to warm up and blossom into your best pal. When nervous, Chewie will try to move away from what frightens him, this can look like darting on leash, running away, and trying to hide. If handlers continue to push him when in this heightened state, he may growl or snap to communicate his discomfort. Chewie was transferred to OHS from another shelter, after being found as a stray. We don't know much about his history, but during his time in the Behavior Modification Program here at OHS, we've been successful introducing Chewie to new people and places, going slowly, helping him overcome some of his fears and have positive experiences. Chewie has shown that he is a resilient little guy who is motivated to learn new things and loves to make new friends, both human and canine. He will need patient owners who can continue to introduce him to the great big world, slowly, going at his pace. We believe he would do best in a home with calm, older children as the unpredictable fast movements and noises can be frightening for a nervous dog.

During Chewie's time at OHS, we've introduced him to a variety of dogs, and he has shown that he loves all dog friends, regardless of size or temperament. He can be quite exuberant & excited when playing with other dogs, often wanting to wrestle and chase, something that not all dogs appreciate. His new family will need to monitor his play to ensure he doesn't pester or slam into an unsuspecting dog during play sessions. As Chewie grows and has appropriate interactions, he will learn how to regulate his play style. His new family will want to stay clear of uncontrolled settings like the dog park or doggie daycare until he has some time to mature and learn to come when called reliably. Chewie may enjoy living with another well-socialized and playful dog to help show him the ropes. But he may also enjoy soaking up all the love and attention for himself. He is untested with cats.

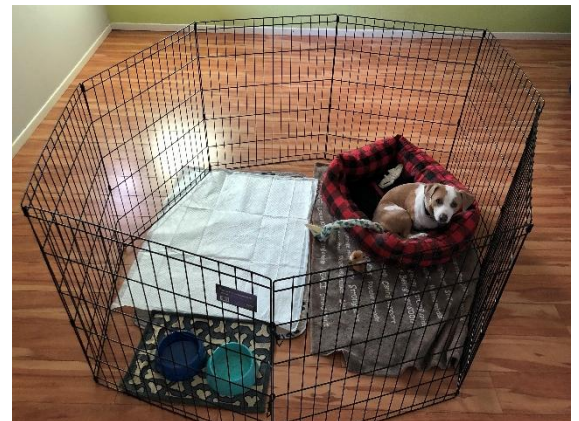
We expect that Chewie will be overwhelmed by everything they encounter at first. During the critical first months in a new home, their safety will depend on your good judgment and forethought. **A frightened dog will look for any occasion to bolt when startled: out of vehicles, out the front door, or slipping out of the leash. Keep a very tight grip of that leash!**

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

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

**Take Chewie outside on leash.** Even if you have a fenced yard, please do not let Chewie 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! Chewie 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.

**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 Chewie is not comfortable with people and doesn't enjoy meeting strangers while on their walk.



*Chewie's "safe spot" when no one is 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!

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

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

**If you're having people over, put Chewie on leash so they learn not to dart out the front door or jump all over people.** Once everyone is sitting down and calm you can drop the leash and allow your dog to decide if they want to go say hi to your guests. Ensure your guests ask Chewie to sit before being pet so they're rewarded for keeping 4 feet on the floor.

**Chewie needs daily exercise to reduce stress.** Chewie 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.

**Don't take Chewie 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.).

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