



## Eclipse 331692: What to Expect

**Eclipse is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home.** Eclipse is an affectionate, playful, and curious large breed dog. She enjoys going for leisurely walks, playing with toys, and meeting new people. She absolutely loves pets and leans in for the best neck scratches – sometimes gently jumping to get closer to the hands that pet. Eclipse was briefly adopted and returned when she bit the small resident dog in the home which required medical attention. Adopters should be familiar with the Akita temperament and traits before considering bringing one into their home. While Eclipse is accepting of strangers and seems to enjoy meeting new people and dogs her size, it's possible that as she ages, she will settle more into the Akita traits – being distrusting of strangers and dogs. She would do best in a low traffic home without small pets like cats, dogs, or other prey size animals.

During her time at OHS, we've introduced Eclipse to other dogs of her size to gauge her comfort around other dogs. She has had conflicted interactions with dogs while at OHS – within some encounters she is playful and others stiff and uncertain with big emotional reactions to misunderstandings. She is not a candidate for the uncontrolled settings of the dog park or doggie daycare but would much prefer play dates with known dogs in a securely fenced yard or SniffSpot. We believe she would do best as the only dog in the home. She is picky about her dog friends and introductions will need to take place in a neutral space and resources like toys, food, and water bowls need to be removed.

It's important her adopters understand that the Akita breed is bred to be wary of strangers and often intolerant of other animals, but Akitas will gladly share their silly, affectionate side with family and friends. They thrive on human companionship. The large, independent-thinking Akita is hardwired for protecting those they love. **Take a training class.** Eclipse would benefit from taking some training classes with her new owners and would love to learn more alongside her family in a training class. Training classes help strengthen the bond between owner and dog by creating clear and precise communication so there are little misunderstandings. You can find more info about our training classes on our website at (<https://www.oregonhumane.org/training/training-at-ohs/>).

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

**Skip the dog park.** Don't take Eclipse to busy places where they will have lots of uncontrolled interactions with people or other dogs (such as Saturday Market, dog parks, coffee shops, etc.). Eclipse has shown us they don't have an interest in being around other dogs. Taking leashed hikes to the river, playing in the backyard, or to places not frequented by many other dogs will allow for exercise, but keep Eclipse calm and engaged with you.

**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 Eclipse is not comfortable with strange people or dogs and doesn't enjoy meeting strangers while on their walk. Distance is calming.

**If you're having people over, put Eclipse on leash so they learn to not 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 Eclipse to sit before being pet so they're rewarded for keeping 4 feet on the floor.

**Eclipse needs daily exercise to reduce stress.** Eclipse 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 Eclipse before introducing them to someone new. They may need to meet a new person multiple times before feeling comfortable with strangers. Treats and allowing Eclipse to approach as they feel comfortable will be best. New people should just completely ignore Eclipse at first – playing hard to get is the way to their heart.

**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 Eclipse 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 Eclipse 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 Eclipse 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.

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

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