



Dilly 337886: What to Expect

Dilly is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Dilly is a sweet girl who loves to cuddle up for a movie night in, romp around with her dog friends, sniff every scent on her walks, and play with toys and her favorite humans. In her foster home Dilly has been described as sweet, playful, puppy like, but sensitive & wary with new people. She has a shy demeanor towards new people, so she can be wary of strangers giving boofs and barks and backing away on introductions. We've been working on building her confidence with meeting new people by introducing her with treats, ignoring her so she approaches on her time, or going for a walk to take the pressure off a direct head to head introduction. It usually takes several minutes for her to get comfortable with new people and should never be forced to interact if she's not comfortable. She would do well in a calm, quiet, and low traffic home, free of frequent visitors. Due to her shy demeanor we feel she would do best with older dog savvy children. Given the time and patience to allow her to warm up, Dilly is certain to become your best cuddle bud and adventure dog.

Dilly has met several dogs during her time at OHS and while in her foster home. She is observed to be very friendly and social with other dogs romping around in a puppy playful way. Often another confident and social dog can help her come out of her shell a bit more quickly with new people. She would do well as the only dog or with a resident dog in the home, a pet meet is required before adoption to ensure the dogs are a match. Dilly has also lived with cats in her foster home and is reported to be respectful but attempts to solicit play. Dog savvy cats will be best as Dilly continues to learn to respect boundaries and that not every critter wants to play with her. Her foster parent also reports that she is comfortable in the crate for up to 4 hours left alone.

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

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 Dilly 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.

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

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

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

Dilly needs daily exercise to reduce stress. Dilly 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.

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 Dilly 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 Dilly 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 Dilly 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.

Don’t take Dilly 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 Dilly to be successful in your home. We’re available to answer questions via phone and email. During your first two months with Dilly, 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!