



Galette 336100: What to Expect

Galette is a graduate of our Behavior Modification Program and is looking for a special home. Galette is a sweet and playful girl who loves to get the zoomies out in the yard, squeak her favorite toys, or play with her dog friends. She has a shy demeanor, but when comfortable opens up and loves to sunbathe, cuddle up for gentle pets, and go for leisurely sniffy walks. She was born on a rural property and came to OHS when her former owner struggling to care for the number of dogs they had on their rural property surrendered them to OHS. While it was in Galette's best interest to be removed from this property, that wide open space had been all she had known for her whole life. Prior to coming to OHS she had never lived indoors, walked on a leash, been pet by a human, or played with toys. It has been a big adjustment for Galette to get comfortable with things we are habituated to, like walking on indoor floors, wearing a collar, living inside, seeing cars, and even the sights and noise from a television. Galette is looking for a loving and comfortable spot to land. 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!**

During her time in the shelter, she spent her time curled up and frightened by the loud noises and busy atmosphere of the shelter, not trusting people to have her best interest in mind. We were able to place her into a quiet and experienced foster home and have seen her thrive. She loves running around the yard, following her foster parent around, and playing with toys. Galette is still learning about the big wide world through neutral and positive experiences and to help her succeed, we feel she would do best with quick and easy access to a yard where she can be off leash to potty. Galette can be a little too excited and interested in her environment to relax and eliminate while on a walk, but her foster parent reports frequent trips to the yard has helped her be successful in reducing accidents in the house.

Here's how to help Galette 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 Galette 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.

Let them drag a leash attached to their collar for the first week 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 Galette decide if they want to come closer to you. Don't force interactions. As they grow more comfortable, you will see Galette decide that they enjoy spending time with you by coming closer for pets, jumping next to you on the couch, and playing with toys.

Supervise your dog outside. Even if you have a fenced yard, please do not let Galette out alone. They are could dig under a fence 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.

Wait to take walks. Galette will need time to bond with you before you start taking them for walks. Give them a couple of weeks to get to know you and their new home, then practice walking around your yard before trying a walk around

the block. They're already doing a great job of checking in with their human at the other end of the leash – continue encouraging this behavior to help strengthen the bond by offering treats and encouraging words.

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

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

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

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

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

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